



# FAMILIES SERVICES

HANDBOOK



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WORLD GAMES  
ABU DHABI 2019

الأولمبياد الخاص  
العالمية  
أبوظبي 2019

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**Let me  
win.**

But if I cannot win,  
let me be

**brave**

in the attempt.”

Dear Families,

Welcome to Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 and thank you for committing your time and energy towards making this an unforgettable and transformational event! Over the next eight days, more than 7,000 athletes from 176 Special Olympics Programs around the world will come together in inspiring divisioning and competition across 24 sports. This is the first time Special Olympics World Games will be held in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) Region and we are thrilled to be the hosts of this spectacular sports event.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, more than 20,000 volunteers and 500,000 spectators will be part of this celebration of sport across several venues in Abu Dhabi.

For more than 20 years, the United Arab Emirates has put social inclusion at the forefront of the country's national priorities, serving as a leader within the region and creating a wider understanding and awareness for people with intellectual disabilities - nationally now called People with Determination. As Special Olympics celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is our aim to stage the most unified Games ever for the athletes, coaches, families, guests and fans. The whole world will be watching what happens here in Abu Dhabi. Your enthusiastic support and your hard work will play an invaluable role in our success – in ensuring that the athletes and families enjoy their experience, that competition and special events run smoothly and fairly, and that all participants are safe, satisfied, and having a great time!

We look forward to making your preparations for the upcoming Games as smooth as possible and are excited to welcome you to Abu Dhabi with Arabic hospitality at its brilliant best.

Thank you again for taking part in this event! Enjoy the Games!

Khalfan Al Mazrouei  
Managing Director  
Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019

## 2 WORLD GAMES OVERVIEW

The Special Olympics and the UAE - established within three years of each other - were both founded on the premise that inclusive qualities such as tolerance, unity, and goodwill not only empower individuals to succeed, but yield productive communities that improve society as a whole.

In keeping with these national values, the UAE's capital, Abu Dhabi, and the second largest Emirate, Dubai, intend to stage the most unified Special Olympics World Games in the history of the Special Olympics.

With its diverse population and a tradition of warm hospitality, the people of the UAE demonstrate, every day, the spirit at the heart of the Special Olympics:

- Respect for people from all walks of life and abilities, both citizens and residents are generous with both their time and resources.
- Provide the ideal setting for the Special Olympics, a globally-central location, with modern facilities and infrastructure that will ensure the success of the Games.
- Be the most unified host for the most unified Games ever held. People with intellectual disabilities will be involved in all facets of the Games, providing every spectator, guest and fan an inclusive and transformational experience with Special Olympics Athletes.

The Games are considered more than a world-class sporting event. They are a catalyst to improve lives, to reach a collective full potential, and to create greater social inclusion for people with and without intellectual disabilities in the UAE, in the region and globally. The UAE will come together to welcome the world to Abu Dhabi for the Special Olympics. Our clear ambition will be for these Games to redefine the Special Olympics World Games for future generations.

The UAE is fully and formally committed to expanding the impact of Special Olympics throughout the Emirates, as articulated in the UAE National 2021 Vision. This comprehensive planning initiative to improve the quality of life for UAE citizens includes efforts to expand and formalize social tolerance and inclusion for all people, including those with intellectual disabilities.



## Who are People of Determination?

The UAE provides all means of support to the various segments of society to create a balanced and cohesive community that can face the varied social challenges. The Federal Law No. 29 of 2006 Concerning the Rights of People with Special Needs (the law) protects the rights of people with special needs and guarantees them the right to live with dignity. In April 2017, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president of the UAE and ruler of Dubai, launched a new term as part of his national strategy for empowering people with disabilities. The term is «People of Determination,» which became part of the National Policy for Empowering People with Special Needs to recognize their achievements in different fields.

The law defines a person with special needs as someone suffering from a temporary or permanent, full or partial deficiency or infirmity in his physical, sensory, mental, communication, educational or psychological abilities to the extent that limits.



## 2.2 SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, every day around the world. Through programming in sports, health, education, and community building, Special Olympics is changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, helping them to overcome the global injustice, isolation,

intolerance, and inactivity they often face. The Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 6 million athletes and Unified Partners in 174 countries.

With the support of more than one million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics holds over 103,000 competitions throughout the year. Special Olympics provides

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.



## 2.3 Special Olympics UAE

Under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Special Olympics UAE (SO UAE) was re-established as an independent association, appointing H.H Sheikha Maryam Bint Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as Honorary Chair of Special Olympics UAE, and H.E Shamma Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth, as Chair of the Special Olympics UAE Board. Special Olympics UAE

(SO UAE) is a separate entity from the Local Organizing Committee that is in charge of organizing the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019. The organization was founded in 1990, dedicated to serving athletes with intellectual disabilities through sports competition. SO UAE provides 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 skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. This initiative enabled the UAE athletes to compete in the Special Olympics MENA Games and the upcoming World Games.

Since the 1990s, Special Olympics UAE has participated in twelve MENA and World Games and has more than 5,000 registered athletes and Unified partners, in addition to more than 300 coaches. In 2017, UAE athletes competed in more than 70 events. Over the years, Special Olympics UAE has taken part in – and hosted – numerous significant events, internationally and regionally.



## 2.4 Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019: Facts and Figures





## WORLD GAMES OVERVIEW

### 2.4.2 Sports



Judo



Sailing



Table tennis



Equestrian



Bocce



Handball



Powerlifting



Artistic  
gymnastics



Athletics



Swimming



Football



Roller skating



Triathlon



Basketball



Rhythmic  
gymnastics



Golf



Cycling



Bowling



Kayaking



Badminton



Tennis



Volleyball



Beach volleyball



Open water  
swimming

## 2.4.3 Branding

# WORLD GAMES OVERVIEW

### The Inspiration for Our Brand



The Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 logo is inspired by traditional Khoos weaving and is a metaphor for the unifying power of the Games and demonstrates the spirit of inclusion and unity that will permeate every aspect of the Games.

### 2.4.4 Official Mascot



The Official Mascots for the World Games are Faris and Rabdan.

The horse is called Rabdan after the Sheikh's horse.

The horse was chosen not only because it is a noble animal and an Arabian symbol, but also because horses are used for therapeutic purposes for people of determination – social skills building, etc.

The Boy is named Faris. He is a unique and an active boy, who enjoys playing sports. Faris was fascinated by Rabdan, his trainer; he copied Rabdan in everything he did and aspired to be like him one day.

## 2.5 Families Program's General Schedule

### FAMILY PROGRAM KEY DATES



Service Type	Dates	Timing
Abu Dhabi Welcome Center	11 March to 20 March	9 am to 8 pm
Dubai Welcome Center	11 March to 20 March	9 am to 8 pm
Credentialing Center inside of ADNEC	16 March to 20 March	9am to 8pm
Inter-Venue shuttle	12 March to 20 March	--
Reception Dinner	18 March 2019	6:30pm to 9:30pm
Venue Lounges	12 March to 20 March	60 min before 1st competition and 30/45 min after last competition
Airport service desk	5 March to 21 March	24 hours

## 3 ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### 3.1 Brief History

The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates, or states, formed on December 2, 1971.

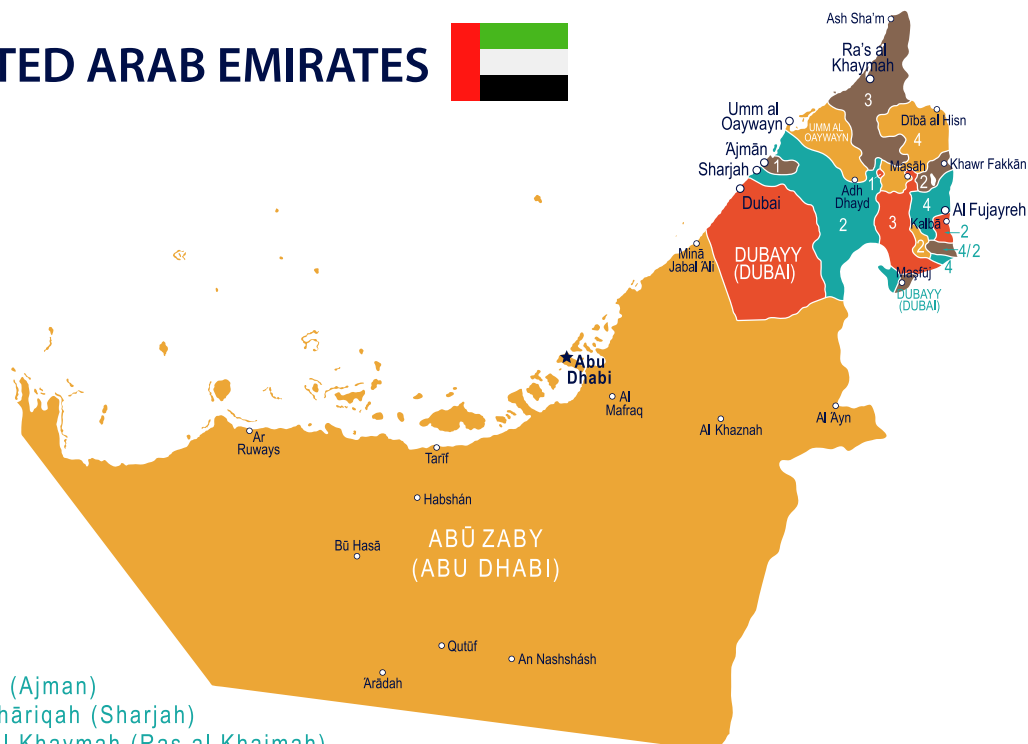
In just four decades, the UAE has grown to become one of the Middle East's most important economic and cultural centers. The UAE is one of the most liberal countries in the Arabian Gulf region and has emerged in recent years as one of the world's most important trading and transport centers. According to estimates by the Federal Competitiveness and

Statistics Authority, the UAE's population reached 9,121,167 in 2016; Expatriates outnumber the Emiratis with around 7 million expatriates. The UAE's population has grown, as strong economic growth has attracted a workforce from all over the world.

Renowned for its visionary leadership, the UAE has been at the forefront in the Middle East in the protection and promotion of rights for people of determination, residents and citizens alike. Strides have

been made in integrating people of determination into society, especially within the UAE's schools and in the workplace. The first President of the UAE was His Highness (HH) the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose achievements in building the nation mean he is still admired and cherished by his people. His eldest son, HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, is the current President of the UAE. Another son, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, is the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



- 1 Ajmān (Ajman)
- 2 Ask Shāriqah (Sharjah)
- 3 Ra's al Khaymah (Ras al Khaimah)
- 4 Al Fujayrah (Fujairah)

## 3.2 The Seven Emirates

### Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates, ruled by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is also the President of the UAE since 3 November 2004.

Abu Dhabi city is the federal capital of the UAE. The three main regions of the emirate are the city of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain in the east, and Al Dhafrah (earlier known as Al Gharbia) in the west

Abu Dhabi is a vibrant and booming metropolis, bustling with tourism and trade and recognized throughout the Arabian Gulf region for its balance of business and cultural offerings.

This year, Abu Dhabi has been ranked the safest city in the world for 2 years in a row by Numbeo, an online database.

Some popular landmarks in Abu Dhabi city are:



## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

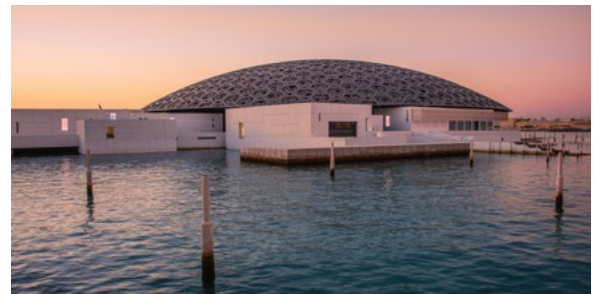
### Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



The immense Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque opened in 2007 after nearly 20 years of construction. The mosque's first ceremony was the funeral of its namesake, Sheikh Zayed, who is buried at the site.

This Islamic architectural work of art is one the world's largest mosques, with a capacity for an extraordinary 40,000 worshippers.

### The Louvre Abu Dhabi



Louvre Abu Dhabi is the first and largest museum of its kind in the Arab world, located in the Saadiyat Island Cultural District. It was inaugurated on 8 November, 2017, as part of a -30year agreement between the city of Abu Dhabi and the French government. The museum displays a collection of artworks and artifacts, highlighting different cultures from around the world.

## Dubai

Dubai is the second largest emirate. The older districts of Dubai are called 'Pearl of the Gulf' and 'Jewel of the world' because of its heritage and history. Dubai city is the capital of the emirate, ruled by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Dubai took a strategic decision to rise as a notable international- tourism destination. It boasts of world-class hotels, modern architecture, entertainment, dining venues, traditional markets, shopping centers and sporting events. Some of the major tourist attractions in the emirate are:



## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### Burj Khalifa



Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building inspired by a concept of the Hymenocallis flower attracting visitors from all over the world since its opening in 2010.

The Burj Khalifa possesses not one but two observations decks – the two-story At the Top on the 124th and 125th floors, as well as the world's highest observation deck (555m) on the 148th floor.

### The wadis of Hatta



The mountain enclave of Hatta is the ideal spot for mountain bikers, adventurers and nature-lovers. From taming the rough terrain on a mountain bike to tackling the teal waters by kayak, or just exploring the cultural town by foot. The wadis of Hatta are just over an hour away from central Dubai.

'Wadi' is Arabic for a dry riverbed or a valley oasis that looks like a water pool (often with waterfalls filling the same).



## Sharjah

Sharjah is the third largest emirate in the UAE, known for its scenic landscapes and seascapes. Ruled by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi. Over the years, Sharjah has grown into a center for arts and culture:

- In 1998, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) named it 'The Cultural Capital of the Arab World.'
- In 2014, it was named the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2014 by Organization of Islamic Countries.
- Sharjah also was conferred the title of Arab Tourism Capital for 2015 during the 15th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Tourism in Cairo on October 18 of 2012.
- Further, it was declared the Capital of Arab Press 2016 during the opening of the fifth annual International Government Communication Forum (IGCF) and crowned with the prestigious 'World Book Capital' title for 2019 by UNESCO.

It is known for its various touristic sites:



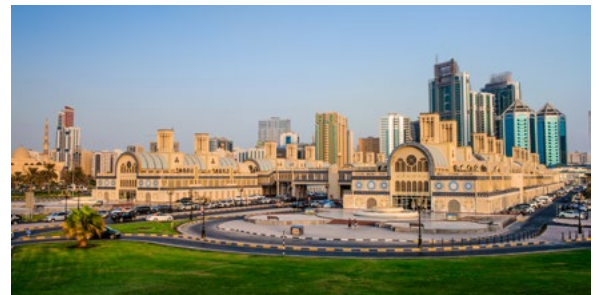
## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### Al Badayer



Al Badayer is notable among 4x4 dune bashing enthusiasts as having some of the UAE's most impressive saffron-colored dunes, including the famous 'Big Red.' Moreover, travelers of all ages can enjoy watching the sunset over the dunes or camping under the stars.

### The Souk al-Markazi (Central Market)



The Souk al-Markazi (Central Market), commonly known as the Blue Souk, is the central shopping hub and one of the most impressive landmarks of Sharjah. The architecture captures the character of a traditional bazaar on a grand scale.

## Ajman

Ajman is the smallest of the seven emirates with a few sandy beaches but is mainly characterized by the rugged Hajjar mountain range. Although Ajman city is modern and offers up-to-date services and facilities, it reflects its traditional charm.

Ajman is ruled by His Highness Sheikh Humaid Bin Rashid Al Nuaimi and has three main cities each with different features:

1. Ajman city - It comprises the Ruler's office, companies, banks and commercial markets in addition to the Ajman port.
2. Al Manamah city - It is known for its valleys and high mountains, which are rich in magnesium, chromate, and rocks.
3. Masfout city - It is known for agriculture, mountains such as Dafta and Leshan, and vast valleys such as Ghalfa.

Some of the major tourist attractions in the emirate are:

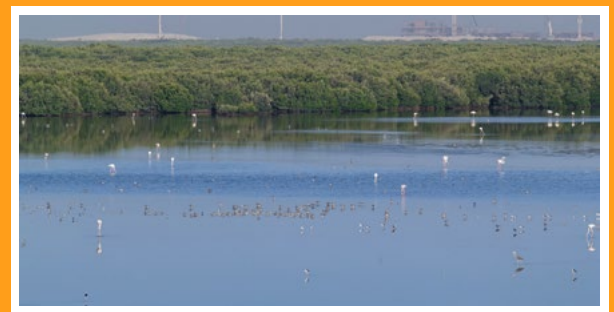


### Ajman Fort



Ajman Fort is one of the country's historic landmarks. It dates back to the 18th century and shows life in different eras.

### Al Zorah Nature Reserve



Al Zorah Nature Reserve is a lively ecosystem made up of mangroves, turquoise lagoons and sandy beaches, which is home to nearly 60 species of bird.

With seven kilometers of waterfront, two kilometers of beach and a tidal creek, the nature reserve is made for waterborne activities.

## Umm Al Quwain

Umm Al Quwain is the second smallest and the least populated emirate in the UAE, ruled by His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla.

The emirate has rich coastal mangroves on the coast of Arabian Gulf and many islands. The biggest island, Al Seniah, is home to Arabian gazelles, falcons, and turtles. Umm Al Quwain provides facilities for numerous recreational activities; from sailing to skydiving. Traditional activities such as dhow building and sports such as falconry and camel racing are also popular in the emirate.



Some of the major tourist attractions in the emirate are:

### Dreamland Aqua Park



Dreamland Aqua Park, the UAE's largest water park, and resort attracts several visitors. The park features high-salinity pool, raft rides, wave pool, swimming pool, lazy river, several water slides, spa-like pool for relaxing.

### Umm Al Quwain Museum



The Umm AL Quwain Museum is a renovated ancient fort used to guard the entrance to the old town. The museum houses several artifacts found near archeological sites. Another excavated site, Al-Dur, was actually a coastal city with nearly 200 BCE until the third century CE, which also contains several interesting artifacts that are housed in the Museum.

## Ras Al Khaimah

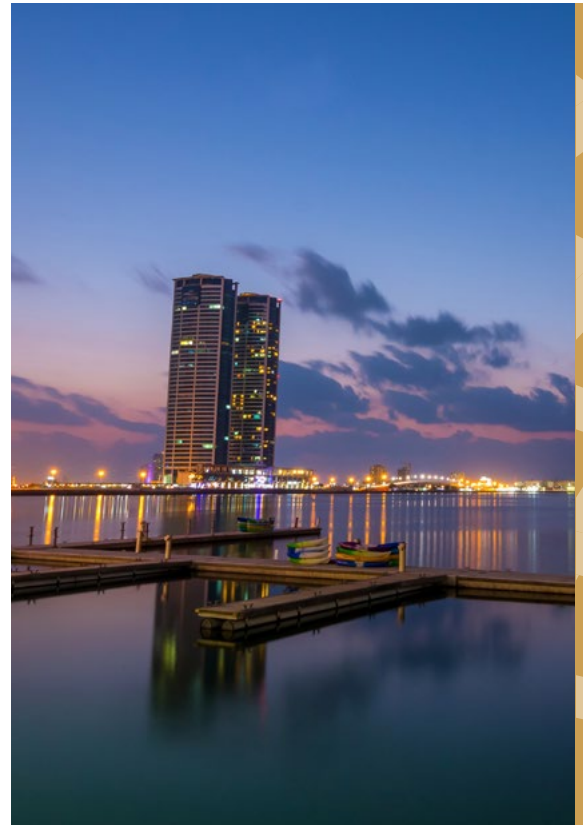
Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) has a rich history. It was renowned for its prosperous port and beautiful pearls, which were the whitest and roundest in the world

It is the fourth largest emirate ruled by His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi. The city of Ras Al Khaimah is the capital of the emirate. A creek divides it into two parts:

1. The old western town - Ras Al Khaimah
2. The eastern region - Al Nakheel.
3. Other cities are Al Jazeerah Al Hamra, Digdagah, Khatt, and Masafi.

Today, Ras Al Khaimah is reinventing itself as a tourism hub. It is often described as the most scenic of all the Emirates because of its diverse landscape consisting of sandy deserts, coastal strips with salt flats areas, mangroves and mountains. There are also sulfur springs near the mountain areas. The emirate is also home to many mammals such as foxes and jerboas as well as hundreds of bird species.

Some of the popular landmarks are:



## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### The National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah



The National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah was the residence of the ruling family until the early 1960s. The Museum houses a collection of archaeological and ethnological artifacts, documents, manuscripts and treaties between the rulers of Ras Al Khaimah and the UK Government, as well as some traditional weapons belonging to the ruling family.

### Jebel Jais



In the eastern part of Ras Al Khaimah is a spectacular mountain range called the Ru'us Al Jibal. These mountains were formed more than 70 million years ago. Jebel Jais at 1,934m is not only the highest peak in Ras Al Khaimah but in the entire UAE. A key feature of the mountains is the abundance of wadis and hiking and mountain bike trails.



## Fujairah

Fujairah is the only emirate that is entirely located on the eastern coast of the UAE along with the Gulf of Oman. Fujairah is recognized with its rugged mountains, valleys, waterfalls, oases and wide sandy beaches. It has several hot, cold and mineral springs. The emirate is ruled by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi. Some popular landmarks are:

## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### Wadi Al Wurayah waterfalls



The wadi is a haven for unique wildlife and has a national park that is home to 860 recorded species, including 19 mammals, 17 reptiles, 3 fishes and 94 birds.

Also, it's a great way to observe rare geological structures called oliophites that the region is well-known for.

### The Heritage Village



Heritage village is located in the Madhab District of Fujairah City. It houses models of traditional homes, hand-held implements, tools and household instruments used in ancient times by the people of Fujairah. It is surrounded by a high wall topped by watch towers in the front.

## 3.3 Cultural environment

The UAE's culture is firmly rooted in Arabia's Islamic traditions, creating a remarkable example of Islam's genuine commitment to tolerance and hospitality. The combination of international influences and a great responsibility to local heritage has created an intriguing mix of new and old.

### Heritage and Tradition

The deep-rooted respect for traditions and culture strengthens the UAE's progressive vision. The artifacts and tools of its early inhabitants, pearl divers, fishers and dhow builders, are carefully preserved and displayed and the Bedouin way of life is especially honored.



### Arabian Hospitality

Offering hospitality to guests is the essence of Emirati society, going back to the days when giving food, drink, and shelter to one another was essential to surviving travel across the desert. Today you will often be made welcome with a small cup of Arabic coffee, taken without milk nor sugar and flavored with cardamom and

sometimes saffron. Only the bottom of the cup is filled, and generally, two or three refills are accepted. When you have had enough, give the empty cup a little shake. Coffee is often accompanied by fresh dates, perhaps the UAE's most important crop, which grows on the palm trees you will see everywhere.

## Faith and Tolerance

Islam is the national religion of the UAE and is widely practiced. Muslims are required to pray five times a day (the times vary according to the position of the sun). The modern-day call to prayer is transmitted through loudspeakers on mosque minarets. The

Islamic holy day is Friday. Tolerance to other faiths is fundamental to the founding principles of the UAE; the UAE Constitution provides for freedom of religion under established customs. From the early days, the Rulers in several emirates donated land so

that churches could be built. Christian communities of all kinds freely worship in the UAE and details of services can be easily found on the internet. In addition, the UAE has a Ministry of Tolerance and made history with the world's first tolerance charter.

## Language

Arabic is the official language of the UAE, although English is also widely spoken and commonly used throughout the UAE.

## National Dress

The Arab national dress is a symbol of pride and identity that has been designed with the dual intent of providing comfort and adhering to religious beliefs.



Women wear an Abaya—a long, black flowing light coat over their clothing. This is worn over their western clothes or a traditional long-sleeved full-length dress known as a jalabeya. A black scarf called a shayla is draped over the head. Some local women also cover their face in

various ways (niqab). Sometimes the face is completely covered (burka).

Men wear an ankle-length, loose-fitting garment made of white cotton, known as a kandora. A ghutra covers the head and is held in place by the agal, a black cord.

## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### Dress Code

First-time visitors to the UAE may be unsure of what clothing to wear. There are variable ideas of the dress code but bear in mind that the UAE is a Muslim country and many of the expatriates residing in the country also hold religious views. Visitors are not expected to cover their heads or wear traditional clothing (except in mosques). As a conservative Muslim country, the UAE expects modest standards of dress in public in both men and women. This does not mean women are required or expected to cover their face or even hair, but both sexes should be considerate of local cultural practices. It is

usually appreciated if visitors (both men and women) wear trousers (or skirts for women) that are no more than a couple of inches above the knee and that they cover their shoulders. Visitors are also advised not to wear tight form-fitting clothes, transparent or excessively revealing clothing in public places, as a sign of respect for local culture and customs. It is a good idea to have a loose shirt/jacket or shawl with you always, even in hot weather, as the mall, restaurant and cinema air conditioning can be powerful. In the evenings, restaurants and clubs usually have a mix of western, Arabic

and Asian styles. Shorts are only considered suitable for the beach (for men and women). Normal western-style swimsuits (one- or two-piece) are acceptable at some beaches in some Emirates. Individuals are advised to visit each official Emirate's website for more information. Topless or nude sunbathing is not allowed. Men and women should always wear a shirt when away from the beach. Tattoos do not constitute a crime; however, they are socially inappropriate and uncommon among Emirati people. Therefore, visitors should pay attention to where they display their tattoos.

### Greetings

Foreigners may remark that sometimes Emirati men greet each other by rubbing their noses to one another. This is the traditional way of greeting among Emirati men. However, the mainstream greeting in the UAE is the

handshake. If you are a man who is introduced to an Arab woman, it is advisable not to shake hands with her unless she extends her hand for a handshake; this also applies for a woman meeting a man.

### Personal Space & Touching

Personal space is very important especially between members of the opposite sex. A little more than arm's length is the acceptable norm. This space may be less between direct family members of the opposite sex as well as friends and family members of the same sex.

Touching members of the opposite sex during conversation is unacceptable and is considered offensive, but this is accepted between men.



## 3.4 Money & Cost (currency, payment options, tipping)

The official currency of the UAE is the dirham, sometimes abbreviated as the AED, Dh or Dhs. One dirham is subdivided into 100 fils. The most commonly used coins are in denominations of 25/50 fils, and 1 dirham. Paper notes are typically in 5, 10, 50, and 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 dirhams.

The numerical value is in Arabic on one side, English on the other. Several international banks have operations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, so if you are coming from outside the country, you should check with your bank to see where and if you can use your ATM card without additional fees.

### 3.4.1 Credit & Debit Cards

Shops, hotels, and restaurants in the UAE accept major credit cards like Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Debit cards are accepted at more prominent retail outlets.

However, if you're shopping in the souks or smaller stores, cash is the best option. Before leaving home, notify your bank and/or credit-card providers of your upcoming

travel plans.

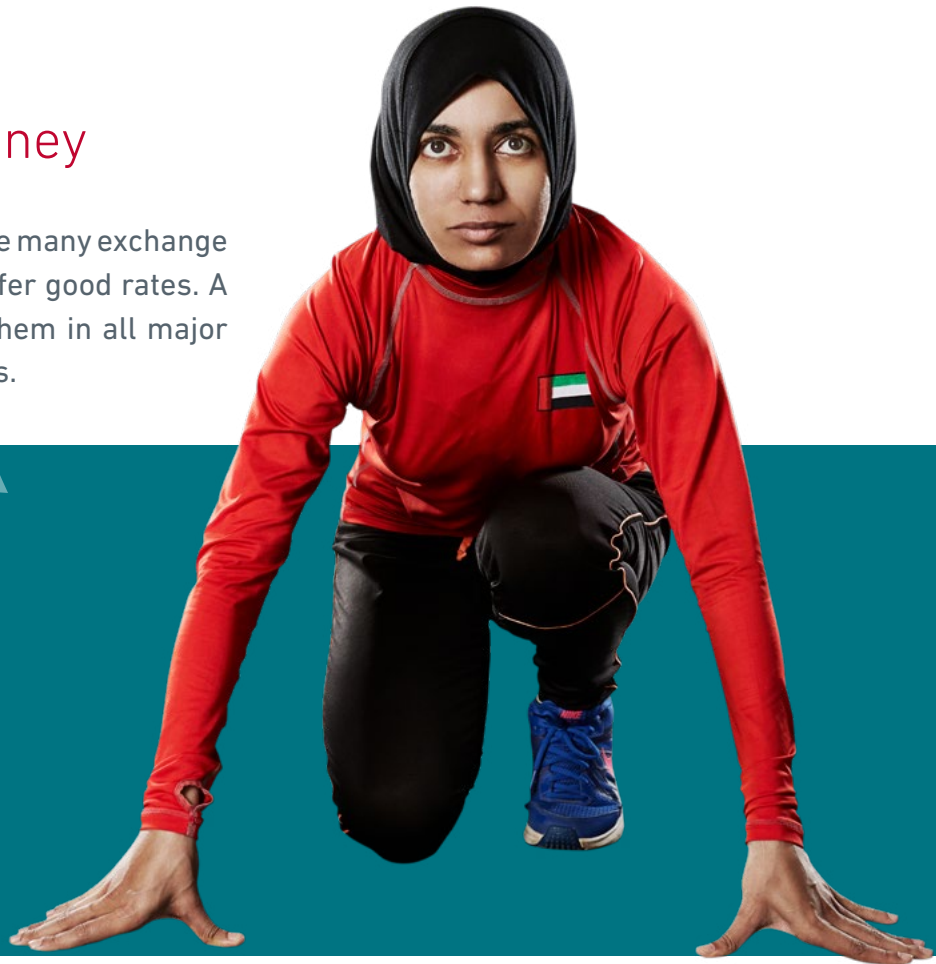
Otherwise, you may trigger fraud alerts with atypical spending patterns, which may result in your accounts being temporarily frozen.

## ATMs

ATMs are widely available 7/24 in urban areas. You can find them at banks, shopping malls, major supermarkets, most petrol stations, and airports. Credit and debit cards can be used for withdrawing money from ATMs. Common systems accepted around Abu Dhabi and Dubai include American Express, Cirrus, Global Access, MasterCard, Plus System and VISA. A charge on ATM cash withdrawals abroad may be levied by some banks.

### 3.4.2 Changing Money

If you need to change money, there are many exchange offices and banks in the UAE that offer good rates. A passport is required. You will find them in all major malls and popular shopping districts.



### 3.4.3 Tipping

Tipping is always appreciated in the UAE but not required. In restaurants, you should always check if a tip or “tourist charge” has been added to your bill (it usually will not be.) In most cases, a tip of roughly %10 would be appropriate. Considering the high level of customer service and hospitality given by most UAE service providers, tipping is

rarely undeserved.

Many restaurants, especially in hotels, may add a service charge (usually %10) onto bills.

However, if you were pleased with the service, you can show your appreciation by leaving a small extra tip for your waiter or waitress.

## 3.5 Electricity (power outlets)

the UAE, the power sockets are mostly Type G, of British origin (see figure 4). The standard voltage is 240/220 volts at 50 Hz. Ensure you pack the right plug adapter or power converter or purchase one at the airport, though most hotels can supply adapters for other kinds of plug and they can also be bought locally.

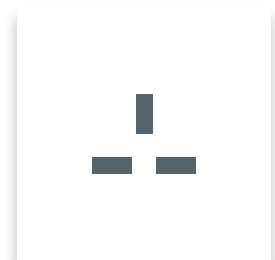


Figure 4 square three-pin sockets

## 3.6 Safety in the UAE

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The UAE is one of the safest places in the world to visit. Nonetheless, it is a good idea to take reasonable precautions to safeguard yourself and your valuables.

The UAE is ranked first for tourism safety in the Middle East and North Africa and second globally for safety and security of tourists, based on the annual World Economic Forum's report in 2017.

It is safe to travel at night and there is no need to be very concerned about security while travelling in public transportation. It is, however, still advisable to take whatever

standard precautions you would typically take when travelling abroad. Traffic police and road and transport authorities across the UAE play a significant role in assuring safety and traffic regulations to minimize traffic violations. Please follow their instructions.

All passengers in a car are required to wear seat belts including those sitting in the rear seat; failing to do so could result in a fine of AED 400 to the driver.

Children up to four years of age must be provided with a child safety seat. Violators will be fined AED 400.

## 3.7 Legal Matters

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Although the UAE is considerably friendly to tourists, it is essential to be aware of some specific legal restrictions that law enforcement take very seriously:

### Alcohol

Under the UAE law, non-Muslims are allowed to drink alcoholic beverages only in licensed establishments. Please note, however, that the legal limit of blood alcohol content when in public places is zero and based on SOWG LOC Policy alcohol consumption is not allowed.

You may be required to take blood and urine tests if you are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Possession and consumption of alcohol are illegal throughout the Emirate of Sharjah and subject to criminal prosecution.

## Consumption of Illicit Drugs

The UAE has a zero-tolerance policy for recreational use of drugs. Federal Law No. 14 of 1995 criminalizes production, import, export, transport, buying, selling, possessing, storing of narcotic and psychotropic substances, unless done so as part of supervised and regulated medical or scientific activities in accordance with the applicable laws. The UAE police has dedicated departments to deal with drug-related

issues. If caught you will receive a lengthy prison sentence, which could be up to 25 years even for small quantities of some drugs. You should also be aware that drugs that are permitted in some countries, including some medications, are banned in the UAE.

Refer to sub-section Import of Drugs and Controlled Medicines for more information.

## Public Display of Affection

According to the UAE Federal Law, any display of affection in public places between couples, whether married or not, goes against the local culture; however, holding hands is socially acceptable. Kissing in public also constitutes a violation of the law. Moreover, in accordance with the Sharia Law, extramarital sex in the UAE, whether in public or private spaces, is illegal.

## Capturing Videos or Photographs without permission

Photography of certain government buildings and military installations is not allowed. Capturing photographs or videos without permission and circulating them may be a violation of one's privacy.

## Driving

Traffic police and road and transport authorities across the UAE play a major role in ensuring safety and traffic regulations and use smart technology to minimize traffic violations.

The UAE has a zero-tolerance policy regarding driving under the influence of alcohol.

An International Driving Permit is required.

All accidents must be reported to the police.







Procedures to follow in the event of a car accident vary depending on the emirate in which the

accident occurs. You should, therefore, familiarize yourself with the rules of the emirate(s) in which you are driving.

Drivers involved in an accident resulting in injuries may be jailed until the injured are released from hospital. In an accident resulting in fatalities, compensation is often awarded to the family of the deceased. Relatively minor accidents may lead to lengthy court proceedings.

## 3.8 Weather during the Games

The UAE is a destination with almost year-round sunshine, little rainfall, and near perfect winter temperatures. Below is a table describing the typical March weather information in the different emirates, based on historical data:

Historical weather in March	Abu Dhabi	Dubai	Sharjah	Ajman	Umm Al Quwain	Ras Al Khaymah	Fujairah
	28°C max day temperature	28°C max day temperature	28°C max day temperature	28°C max day temperature	28°C max day temperature	29°C max day temperature	28°C max day temperature
	17°C min night temperature	17°C min night temperature	17°C min night temperature	17°C min night temperature	17°C min night temperature	17°C min night temperature	15°C min night temperature
	8 hours of sunshine per day	8 hours of sunshine per day	8 hours of sunshine per day	8 hours of sunshine per day	8 hours of sunshine per day	8 hours of sunshine per day	8 hours of sunshine per day
	4 days with some rainfall	4 days with some rainfall	4 days with some rainfall	4 days with some rainfall	4 days with some rainfall	4 days with some rainfall	4 days with some rainfall
	Moderate heat & humidity	Moderate heat & humidity	Low heat & humidity	Low heat & humidity	Low heat & humidity	Low heat & humidity	Moderate heat & humidity
	22°C sea temperature	23°C sea temperature	23°C sea temperature	23°C sea temperature	23°C sea temperature	23°C sea temperature	24°C sea temperature

## 3.9 Mobile and Internet Services

Etisalat and Du provide mobile phone and internet services in the UAE. Mobile phone reception and internet speed are excellent throughout the UAE. Etisalat provides Visitor Line plan and Du provides Visitor Mobile Line and Tourist Plan for visitors. The plans have various options for making local and international calls, sending text messages and surfing the internet.

Visitors to the UAE can buy the plans at Etisalat or Du shops located at airports in the UAE.

Documents needed

Visitors need to provide a copy of their passport and UAE visa to obtain a local SIM card.

**Do not forget, the UAE's dialing code is +971!**



### 3.9.1 Wi-Fi in the UAE

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Etisalat and du provide Wi-Fi service in the UAE at many locations.

Most hotels offer free Wi-Fi to their guests. Most malls and many other public places also provide free Wi-Fi.

For more information on mobile and internet services, call Etisalat on 101 or 101 800 (from overseas: 400444101 971+) and Du on 155 or 155 800 (from overseas: 55678155 5 971+).

## 3.10 Emergency Services

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When calling the emergency number, you must say your name, the nature of the incident, the location, the seriousness of the incident, and the telephone number from which you are calling. The paramedics should be provided with clear

information so that they can help you more effectively.

In case of an emergency, while in the UAE, call the following numbers (free of charge) applicable when using a local sim:



Police emergency

999



Police non-emergency

901



Ambulance

998 or 999



Fire brigade

997 or 999

## ABOUT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### 3.10.1 Airports and airlines



**Emirates**  
600 555 555



**Etihad Airways**  
02 599 0000



**Dubai International  
Airport**  
04 24 5555



**Abu Dhabi International  
Airport**  
02 505 5555

## 4. INFORMATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

### 4.1 Families Welcome Centers

#### 4.1.1 Address and Hours of Operation

There will be two Families Welcome Centers—one in ADNEC, Abu Dhabi and the other in Hamdan Sport Complex, Dubai. Please see below the schedules to know more about the Welcome Centers timings:

<b>FAMILIES WELCOME CENTER IN ABU DHABI - ADNEC</b>		
Location	Date	Operational hours
Families Welcome Center	11-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	12-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	13-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	14-Mar-19	9am to 2pm
From March 15 to 20, Families Services will move into the credentialing office in ADNEC		
Families wanting to collect their packs need to visit the Credentialing Office in ADNEC according to the below timing:		
Credentialing office	15-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Credentialing office	16-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Credentialing office	17-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Credentialing office	18-Mar-19	9am to 2pm
Credentialing office	19-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Credentialing office	20-Mar-19	9am to 8pm

**TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE VENUE OPERATION. KINDLY CHECK WITH THE WELCOME CENTER STAFF FOR MORE UPDATES.**



INFORMATION FOR  
FAMILY MEMBERS



FAMILIES WELCOME CENTER IN DUBAI - HAMDAN SPORTS COMPLEX		
Location	Date	Operational hours
Families Welcome Center	11-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	12-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	13-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	14-Mar-19	9am to 2pm
Families Welcome Center	15-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	16-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	17-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	18-Mar-19	9am to 2pm
Families Welcome Center	19-Mar-19	9am to 8pm
Families Welcome Center	20-Mar-19	9am to 8pm

Family members of athletes competing in Dubai should collect their Welcome Pack from the Dubai Families Welcome Center in Hamdan Sports Complex. Please inform us before March 1 if you want to collect your Welcome Pack from Abu Dhabi.

Family members of athletes competing in Abu Dhabi should collect their Welcome Pack from the Abu Dhabi Families Welcome Center in ADNEC.

Family members who have missed the deadline will be able to register on site at the Families Welcome Center, EXCLUSIVELY in ADNEC, between March 11 and 13 from 9am to 8pm. [Click here for the On-site registration rules and regulations.](#)

## 4.1.2 Check-in Process

All family members should go to the Families Welcome Center and present their photo ID (driver’s license or passport) in order to check in.

A family member will be able to collect the Welcome Pack and the credential on behalf of another family member only if they bring with them their ID and the IDs of the other person whose Welcome Pack and credentials they wish to collect.

Our team of volunteers will check in family members in accordance with our approved registration list. If there are any errors or corrections to be made, volunteers and staff will take care of them when performing the check-in.

Each registered and approved family member will receive a welcome pack which contains a credential, Opening & Closing Ceremony ticket, and promotional items. Please note that each registered family member is entitled to one Opening & one Closing Ceremony ticket. There will be an opportunity to buy extra tickets once they are on sale.

**You must keep your credential with you at all times in order to access the areas for family members, Games and competition areas, free inter-venue Shuttle service, and special events for family members.**

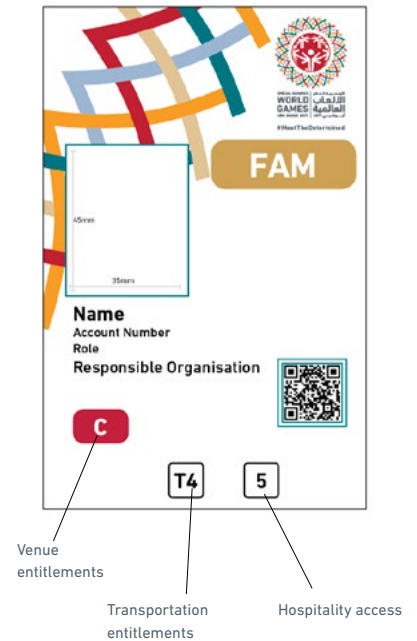


## 4.2 Families Program: Credential

Each registered and approved family member will receive a personalized credential once they check in at the Families Welcome Center (children of less than 3 years of age are exempted). This credential will be the official identification for the Special

Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 and will display information on entitlements and zones allowed to be accessed. The credential is only valid for its assigned bearer and must not be given away or transferred to other individuals.

Families Credential



### 4.2.1 Access Granted through Credentials

A family member credential gives you access to:

- Inter-venue shuttle
- Reserved seats in sports venues
- Hospitality lounges
- Family members' reception
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies (along with the ticket)

**Access to a venue or zone will only be granted to those bearing the correct credentialing card.**

## 4.3 Family Program Benefits

### 4.3.1 Access to Preferential Rates with our Official Airline Partner

#### **Etihad Airways**

Etihad Airways is the official partner airline for the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, and is offering %10 discount to family members and friends who book their flights before March ,7 2019 and fly between March 9 and 2019 ,26. [Click here for more information.](#)

Discount is applicable to economy and business classes for any direct flights to Abu Dhabi.  
How to book: Log into [Etihad.com/AbuDhabi2019](http://Etihad.com/AbuDhabi2019) and enter promo code SOG2019.

## 4.3.2 Transportation

### INFORMATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

#### 4.3.2.1 Families Transportation Schedule

Constituent Group	Service	Date	Location
Family members and spectators	Inter-city shuttle from ADNEC (Abu Dhabi) to Hamdan Sports Complex (Dubai)	March 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20	ADNEC (Abu Dhabi) to Hamdan Sports Complex (Dubai)
Family members and spectators	<p><b>ABU DHABI</b> Inter-venue shuttle from family members' official hotels, Abu Dhabi Main Bus Station to various competition venues and back</p> <p><b>DUBAI</b> Inter-venue shuttle from Dubai Festival City to various competition venues and back</p>	March 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20	Competition venues in Dubai and Abu Dhabi (including Families Welcome Centers in both cities)
Family members	<p><b>ABU DHABI</b> Dedicated shuttle from family members' official hotels, Abu Dhabi Main Station to Zayed Sports City and back</p> <p><b>DUBAI</b> Dedicated shuttle from Hamdan Sports Complex to Zayed Sports City and back</p>	March 14	Opening Ceremony in Zayed Sports City (Abu Dhabi)
Family members	<p><b>ABU DHABI</b> Dedicated shuttle from family members' official hotels, Abu Dhabi Main Station to Armed Forces Officers Club &amp; Hotel (Abu Dhabi) and back</p> <p><b>DUBAI</b> Dedicated shuttle from Hamdan Sports Complex to Armed Forces Officers Club &amp; Hotel (Abu Dhabi) and back</p>	March 18	Family Members' Reception AFOC
Family members	<p><b>ABU DHABI</b> Dedicated shuttle from family members' official hotels, Abu Dhabi Main Station to Zayed Sports City and back</p> <p><b>DUBAI</b> Dedicated shuttle from Hamdan Sports Complex to Zayed Sports City and back</p>	March 21	Closing Ceremony in Zayed Sports City (Abu Dhabi)

[Click here to find out more about the detailed shuttle service schedule](#)

#### 4.3.2.2 Arrival at the UAE airports

The two official airports in the UAE are Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) and Dubai International Airport (DXB).

The distance between Dubai and Abu Dhabi is approximately 140 km, and it usually takes between one hour and fifteen minutes and one hour and thirty minutes to travel by car from one city to the other.

#### How to get to Abu Dhabi City from Abu Dhabi Airport:

### Taxi

Getting around Abu Dhabi is easy, and taxis are reasonably priced and plentiful. They can be flagged down at the roadside, booked by phone through TransAD hotline number: 535353 600, or via Abu Dhabi Taxi app available for both iOS and Android devices. The cost of the trip from Abu Dhabi Airport to the city center is approximately DHS85. While some taxis accept credit cards, it is recommended to have cash (dirham) on hand.

## Bus

Public buses operated by DOT (Department of Transport) are available to cater to the needs of the community in various parts of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, including the airport.

**How to get to Abu Dhabi City from Dubai Airport:**

One single bus ride costs DHS2. You can download their application—Moovit—and access the city-wide bus map.

## Taxi

Dubai Taxi is operated by DTC (Dubai Taxi Corporation). There are many taxis at the exits of all terminals. While some taxis accept credit cards, it is recommended to have cash (dirham) on hand. The cost of the trip from Dubai Airport to Abu Dhabi city is approximately DHS350 (indicative only).

## Public Buses, Tram, Metro

Dubai Public buses, trams, and metro are operated by RTA. You can access RTA services using a Nol card, which is a smart card that enables you to pay for the use of various RTA transport modes. You can also book and plan your trips using RTA Mobile app. The tram and metro do NOT connect Dubai and Abu Dhabi; however, public buses do, and it costs approximately 25 dirhams.

You can find more information about bus stations in Dubai and service routes to Abu Dhabi by visiting this link: [Dubai buses](#).

A journey planner is also available on RTA website to help you plan the connection between different locations in Dubai (including airports) and Abu Dhabi. You can find this in this link: [RTA trip planner](#).

## Flying with Etihad or Emirates Airlines

If you are flying to Abu Dhabi with Etihad airlines or to Dubai with Emirates airlines, there are complimentary coach services for economy-class passengers having a flight ticket. Visit the following links to learn more about shuttle schedule and pick-up/drop-off points: [Emirates shuttle service](#) or [Book an Etihad Coach](#).

All business and first-class travelers receive complimentary chauffeur drive that also includes transportation between Dubai and Abu Dhabi.



## Careem

Careem is a popular transportation provider in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The Careem phone App enables users to book rides within a matter of seconds from anywhere by matching them with Captains to take them where they want to go. The process is quite simple: When you wish to book a ride, open the app and input your pickup and drop-off locations, then send the request by tapping a single button. Nearby Captains will see this request, accept your booking, and immediately start driving towards you. The rate

between Dubai Airport and Abu Dhabi City ranges from DHS380 to DHS480. It is advisable to contact Careem as they may also offer different rates from trips between Dubai airport and Abu Dhabi. For information about transportation options from Dubai Airport please visit: [Traveling to/from the airport](#).

Registered and approved family members shall have access to an amazing Careem Deal. For more information, please read the commercial section in this handbook.

**Important note: the distance between Dubai and Abu Dhabi is approximately 140 km, and it usually takes between one hour and fifteen minutes and one hour and thirty minutes to travel by car from one city to the other.**

### 4.3.2.3 Competition Venues Transportation

## Inter Venue Shuttle

### Abu Dhabi

Registered and approved family members staying in Abu Dhabi will have access to inter-venue shuttle services from the family members' official hotels and Abu Dhabi main bus station to the competition venues during competitions hours.

### Dubai

Registered and approved family members staying in Dubai will have access to a central location for shuttle bus pickup/drop-off in Dubai located in Dubai Festival City.

**Inter-venue shuttle system has currently been scheduled from March 2019 ,12 until March ,20 2019.**

**You must keep your credential with you at all times in order to access the inter-venue shuttle.**

## Inter-City Shuttle (between Abu Dhabi and Dubai)

This service will directly connect ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, to Hamdan Sports Complex, Dubai. From those venues, passengers can use the existing inter-venue shuttles to travel between all the competition venues.

## Accessible transportation (wheelchair users) – For ceremonies and the reception dinner

Accredited family members will need to identify beforehand, during the registration, whether they need accessible transportation or not, in order to have the service available to them should they need it. Last-minute

bookings will not be accepted. When requested, the accessible transportation will be offered between the official hotels to the opening & Closing Ceremonies and the Family Reception dinner.

## Accessible transportation (wheelchair users) - ALL OTHER DAYS

TransAD (Abu Dhabi) and RTA (Dubai) have wheelchair-accessible vehicles in their fleets that are available to the general public.

Wheelchair-accessible vehicles in Abu Dhabi can be booked by calling the call center at: 600 535353 or via [Abu Dhabi Taxi app](#).

Wheelchair-accessible vehicles in Dubai can be booked by calling the call center at: 04-2080808.

### 4.3.2.4 Opening & Closing Ceremony Transportation

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#### ABU DHABI

On the days of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, transportation will be arranged to transfer the family members from their respective family members' official hotels and Abu Dhabi main bus station to the Opening/Closing Ceremony venue (Zayed Sports City Stadium) and back.

**Please note that this is a shuttle, so it is important that you come early so that all family members arrive at the venue on time.**

#### DUBAI

On the days of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, transportation will be arranged to transfer the family members from Hamdan Sports Complex to the Opening/Closing Ceremony venue (Zayed Sports City Stadium) and back.

### 4.3.2.5 Access to Venues and Parking

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Parking for self-driving family members and spectators will be available at all venues. Spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking for self-drivers will NOT be available at the Opening ceremony venue ( ZSC). There will allocated park and ride locations and will be sent to the families soon.

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

### 4.3.3 Accommodation of Family Members

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Registered family members will have access to reasonable rates at their official hotels located in Abu Dhabi. They will also have access to a list of hotels in Dubai; however, we do not have official hotels in Dubai. Booking can be made via our Agency Nirvana. For more information, please visit: <http://so.ntravel.ae/>

### 4.3.4 Opening & Closing Ceremony Tickets

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One free ticket to the Opening & Closing Ceremonies will be given to each registered family member at the Welcome Center. There will be an opportunity to buy extra tickets once they are on sale.

### 4.3.5 Families Lounges

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All the competition venues will have an honored guests and family member lounge where refreshments and snacks will be served.

Lounges will be open from the March 12 to 20 and will start working every day one hour prior to the first competition and close half an hour after the last competition.

### 4.3.6 Dedicated Seating

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Under the Program for Family Members' Credentials, family members and honored guests are granted access to dedicated seating areas at competition venues.

## Accessible Seating

All the sports venues are accessible to individuals who use wheelchairs and/or assistive devices.

### 4.3.7 Airport Service Desk

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An airport information desk will be available in each of the Airport Arrivals Halls of AUH and DXB International Airports. The desk will operate on a 7/24 basis from the 5th of March 2019 until the 21th of March 2019 to respond to inquiries from constituents and the public.

## 4.3.8 Commercial Benefits

### 4.3.8.1 Entertainment activities at a discount price

#### Three days—Three Theme Parks

All approved family members will have access to an amazing deal on a three-day and three-park package. This means that each family member can visit any of the three parks listed below over the course of three days.

[Ferrari World Abu Dhabi](#) | [YAS Water World Abu Dhabi](#) | [Warner Bros World Abu Dhabi](#)

The usual price for this package is AED535; however, approved family members will pay only AED225. On top of that, each family member can invite up to three guests who will be eligible to pay the same discount price.

In order to benefit from this amazing offer, family members should book beforehand. The booking period is from January 20 to March 14. The three-park package should be used from **March 1 until March 31, 2019**. [Click here to book!](#)

### 4.3.8.2 Discount for mobile phone and internet services: Etisalat

Etisalat, an Emirates Telecommunication Group Company, will offer a free SIM card and ten discount vouchers to the registered and approved family members. Family members will then need to top up their SIM cards as they deem appropriate. Families are requested to print the email and the attachment, then head to any of the mentioned locations below, making sure to have their passport and UAE visa at hand:

**RAK ( Ras AL Khaimah) Airport, Sharjah Airport at Duty Free, Sharjah Airport Air Arabia, Dubai Duty Free Terminal 1,2,3, WH Smith at Abu Dhabi Airport** [Click here to learn more about this pack.](#)

### 4.3.8.3 Transportation discounts: Careem

Careem—our transportation network company—will offer a %50 discount in two rides (max discount AED70 per ride) exclusively to the family members of athletes participating in the Special Olympics World Games. The discount is only applicable if the pickup or drop-off point is one of the following airports: DWC, DXB, or AUH. This is a fantastic alternative for the registered and approved family members who will need to arrange their transportation from the airport to the hotel and back.

#### How to use Careem:

- Download and install Careem app on your phone
- Insert the promo code: **FAMILY50** (the code is valid from March 2 to March 2019 ,24)
- Tap: Yalla

[Click here to learn more about this deal.](#)

### 4.3.8.4 Discounted merchandise

[Click here for more information](#)



## 5 SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS

### 5.1 Competition schedule

The table below shows the general schedule that most sports will follow for the Games. More detailed competition schedules for each sport will be available closer to the start of the Games.

12 March Divisioning	13 March Divisioning	14 March Opening Ceremony	15 March Comp 1	16 March Comp 1	17 March Comp 3	18 March Comp 4	19 March Comp 5	20 March Comp 6	21 March Closing Ceremony
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More detailed competition schedules for each sport will be available closer to the start of the Games.

### 5.2 Awards Ceremonies

The Award Ceremonies will take place following the SO rules. The Award Ceremonies for each sport will take place at specific locations and times. Family members will be asked to watch the ceremonies from the spectator areas. Only in ADNEC there will be seating options on a first come first serve basis.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF COMPETITION ZONES AND VENUES

### 6.1 Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 Competition Zones Overview

The Games will be hosted in various venues across Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Each venue is designated in a specific zone. There are four zones in Abu Dhabi and 1 zone in Dubai. Below is a map demonstrating an overview of the competition zones and venues and their locations.

#### Abu Dhabi:














## Dubai:



## 6.2 Sports per Zone Overview

With 24 sports played during the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, below is a graph illustrating the split of sports per zone.

### ZONE 1 - Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC)

					
Artistic gymnastics	Badminton	Basketball	Bocce	Judo	
					Handball
Powerlifting	Roller skating	Rhythmic gymnastics	Table tennis	Volleyball	

## ZONE 2 - Zayed Sports City (ZSC) & Khalifa International Bowling Center (KBC)



Bowling



Football



Tennis

## ZONE 3 - Al Forsan International Sports Resort (AFR), YAS Marina Circuit (YMC) & YAS Links Golf Course (YSL)



Cycling



Equestrian



Golf



Triathlon

## ZONE 4 - Abu Dhabi Sailing & Yacht Club (SYC) & Corniche Beach (COR)



Beach volleyball



Kayaking



Sailing

## ZONE 5 - Dubai Police Club Stadium (DPS) & Hamdan Sports Complex (HMD)



Athletics



Swimming

## PUBLIC EVENT VENUES



Half Marathon  
at Al Hdayriat  
Island



Open water  
swimming  
Dubai

## 6.3 Description of Competition Zones and Venues

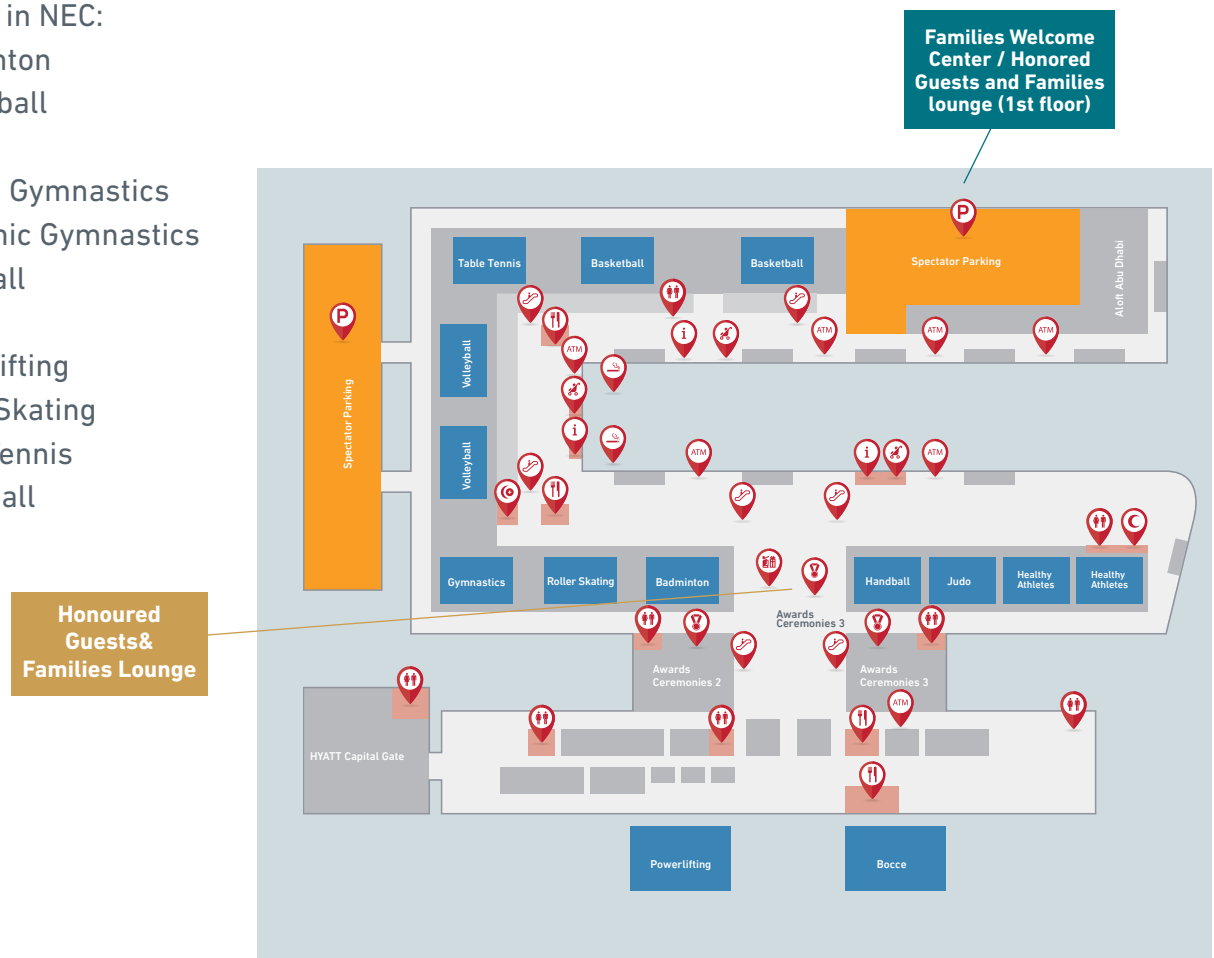
### 6.3.1 Zone 1

#### Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC)

Inaugurated in 2007, the venue has a diverse yearly calendar of more than 100 events and hosts one of UAE's largest indoor auditoriums. It boasts 73,000 m2 of live event space, hosts 1.8 million annual visitors, has 12 interconnected Halls totaling 55,000 m2 of exhibition space, a 18,000 m2 Visitor Concourse, a 3,000 m2 Atrium, 21 fully furnished capital suites and provides parking capacity for up to 6,000 vehicles.

##### Sports Played in NEC:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bocce
- Artistic Gymnastics
- Rhythmic Gymnastics
- Handball
- Judo
- Powerlifting
- Roller Skating
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball



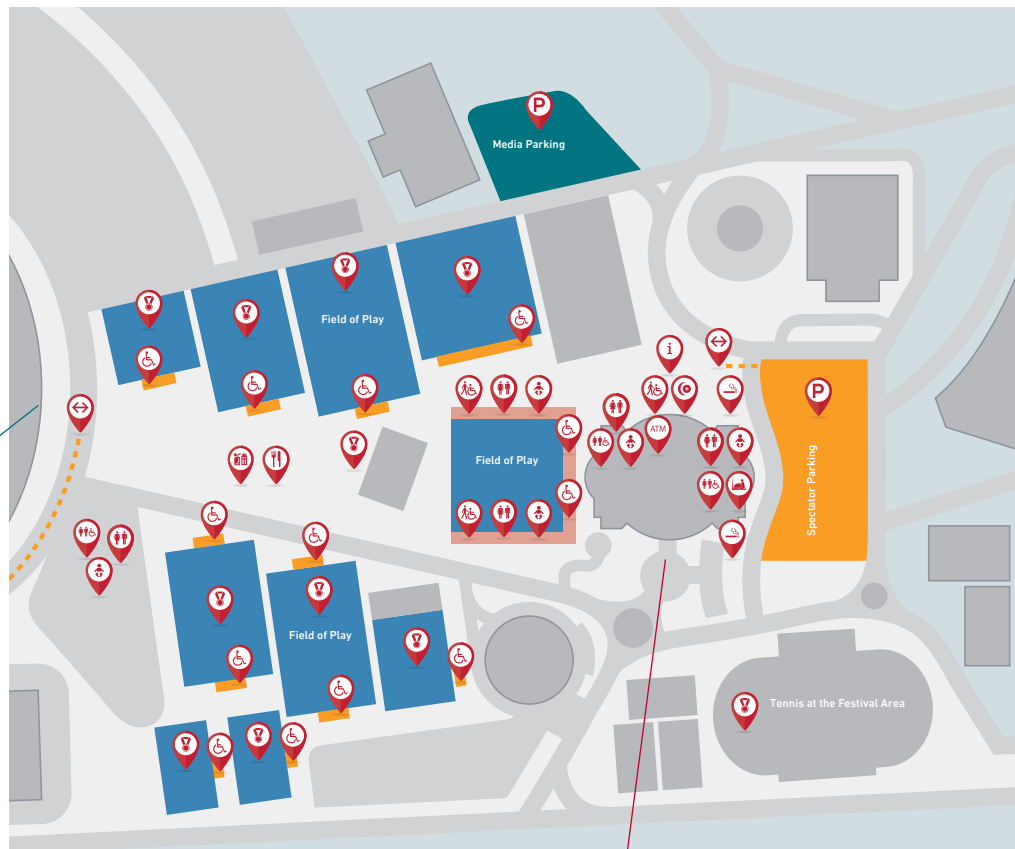
## 6.3.2 Zone 2

### Zayed Sports City (ZSC)

Zayed Sports City (ZSC) has welcomed over 15 million visitors and currently hosts over 180 events every year. The venue includes a -5,000seat tennis stadium, 26,340 + sqm outdoor festival space, multiple football pitches, a bowling center for over 1,000 people, and a -6,000capacity indoor arena.

Sports Played in ZSC:

- Football (-5a-side)
- Football (-7a-side)
- Football (-11a-side)
- Tennis



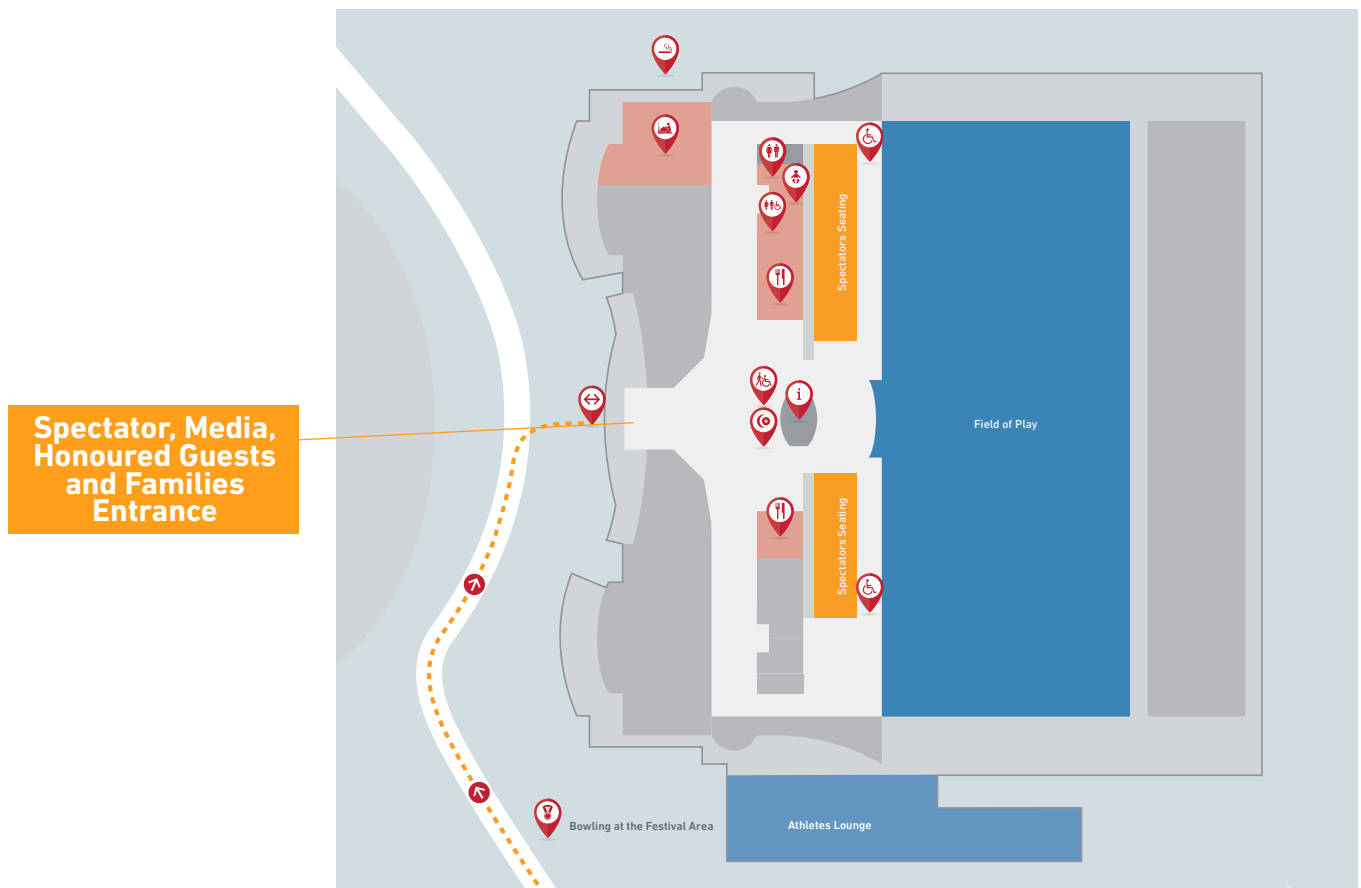
**Zayed Main Stadium for Opening and Closing Ceremonies**

**Honoured Guest and Families Lounge (1st floor)**

## Khalifa International Bowling Center (KBC)

Built to host the 14th FIQ World Bowling Championships in 1999, Khalifa International Bowling Centre is the national bowling facility of the United Arab Emirates. The facility has 40 tenpin bowling lanes with automatic Brunswick scoring systems. The venue is the only one to have ever hosted the World Bowling Championship on more than one occasion. This record was earned when the event returned in 2014 and 2015. It will now serve as the venue for the Special Olympics World Games Bowling events in 2019. Sports Played in KBC:

- Bowling

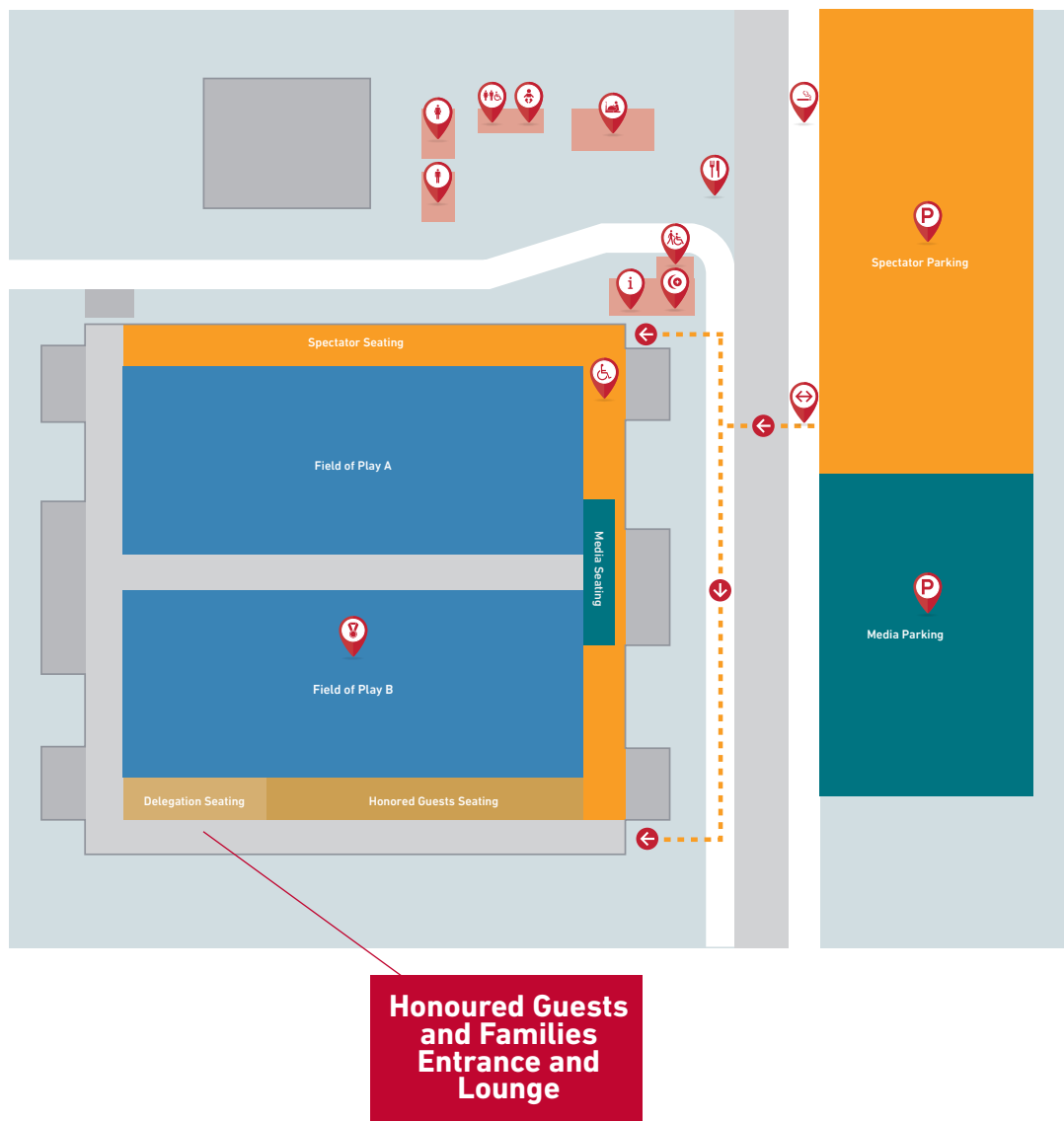


### 6.3.2 Zone 3

## Al Forsan International Sports Resort (AFR)

Al Forsan has a well-established Equestrian school with both indoor and outdoor facilities which will play host to the Equestrian events for the World Games. Sports Played in AFR:

- Equestrian

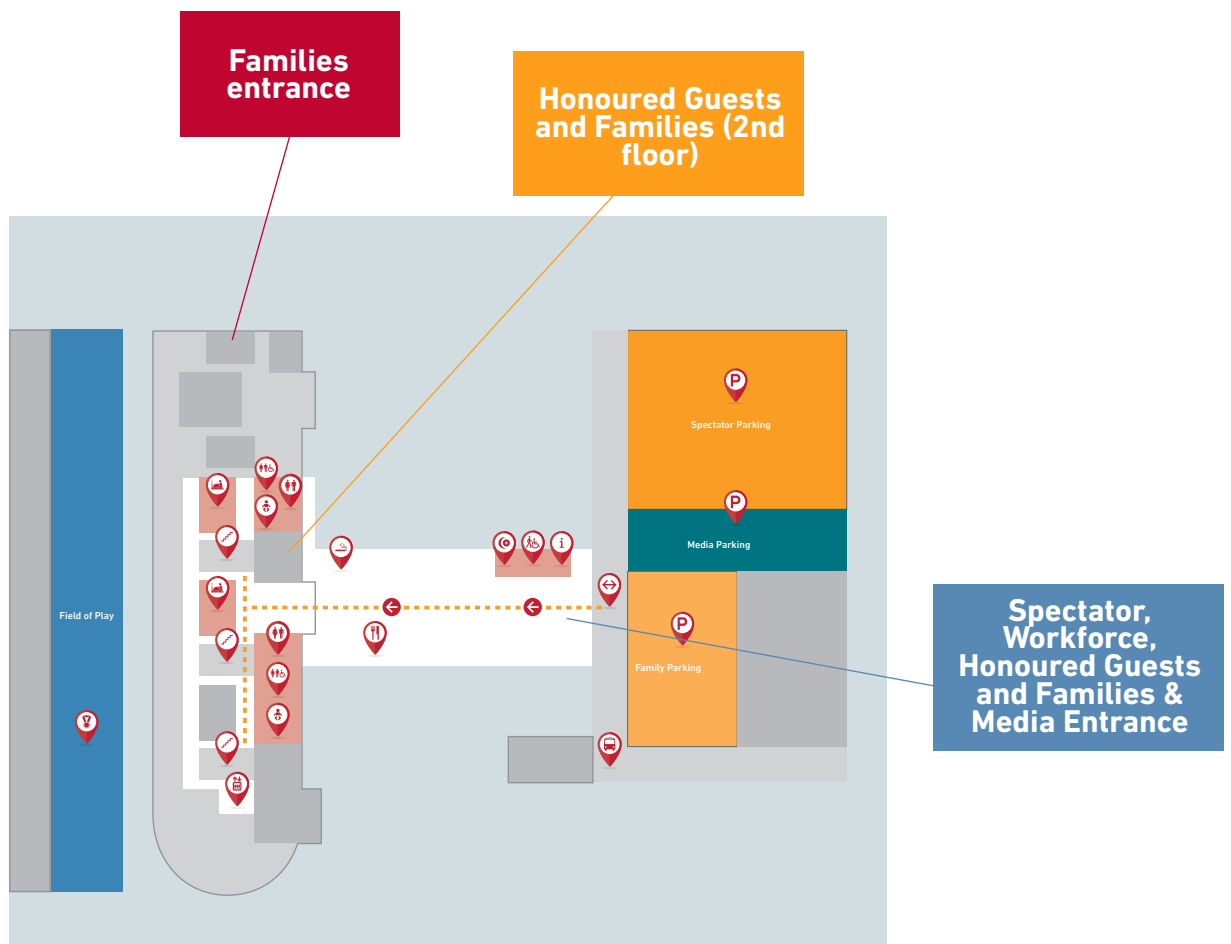




## YAS Marina Circuit (YMC)

YAS Marina Circuit is a premier venue for motorsports, featuring a Marina and a 5.5km racecourse that hosts the F1 finale every year. The World Games Cycling and Half Marathon courses will utilize the track, and the Triathlon competitions will be part of the ITU World Triathlon Abu Dhabi 8) 2019th and 9th of March 2019). Sports Played in YMC:

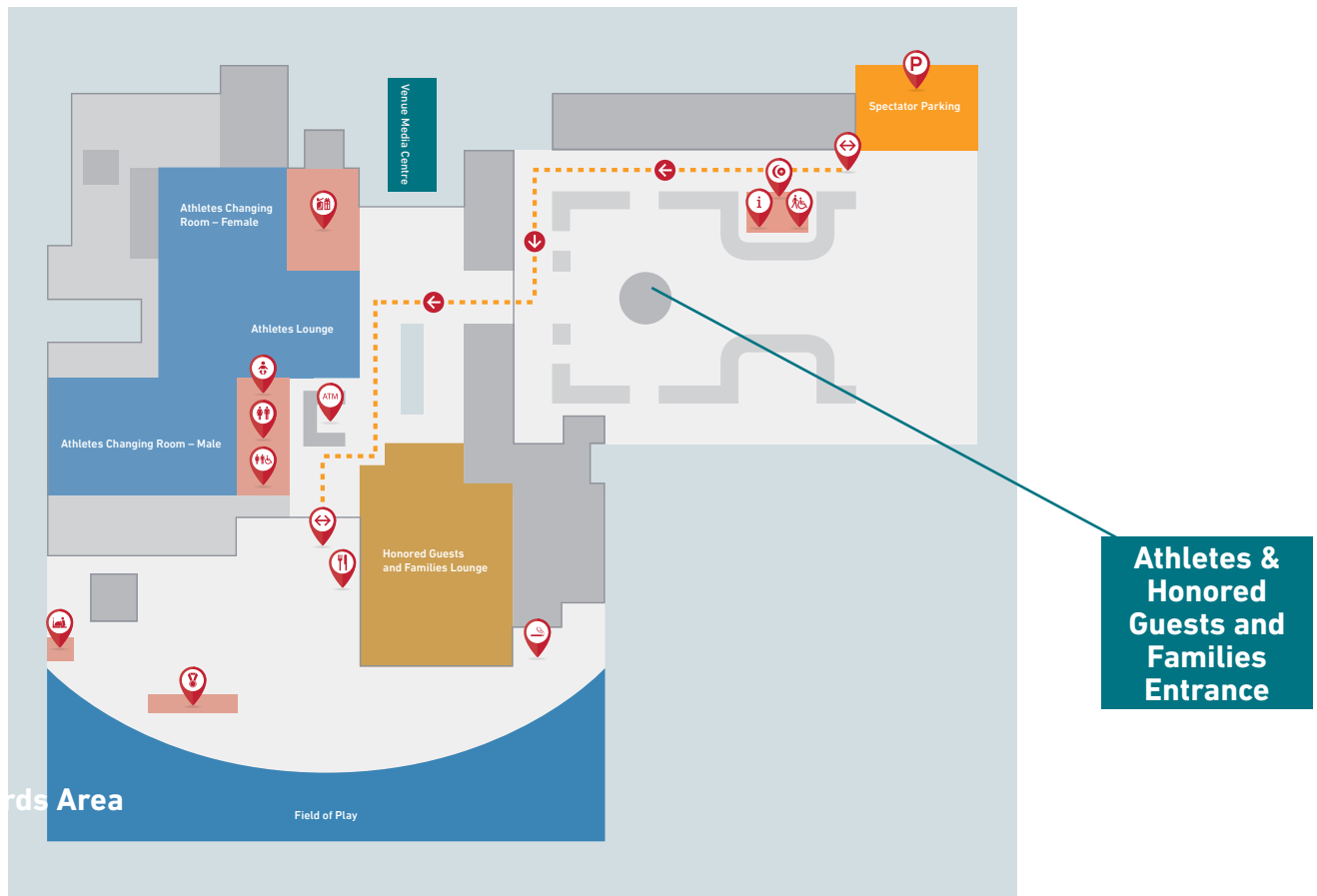
- Cycling
- Triathlon



## YAS Links Golf Course (YSL)

YAS Links is currently ranked as the 44th Best Golf Course in the World. It hosts an 18 Hole Links Championship Course, as well as a Par 3 Academy Course together with two driving ranges and 2 putting greens. Sport Played in YSL:

- Golf

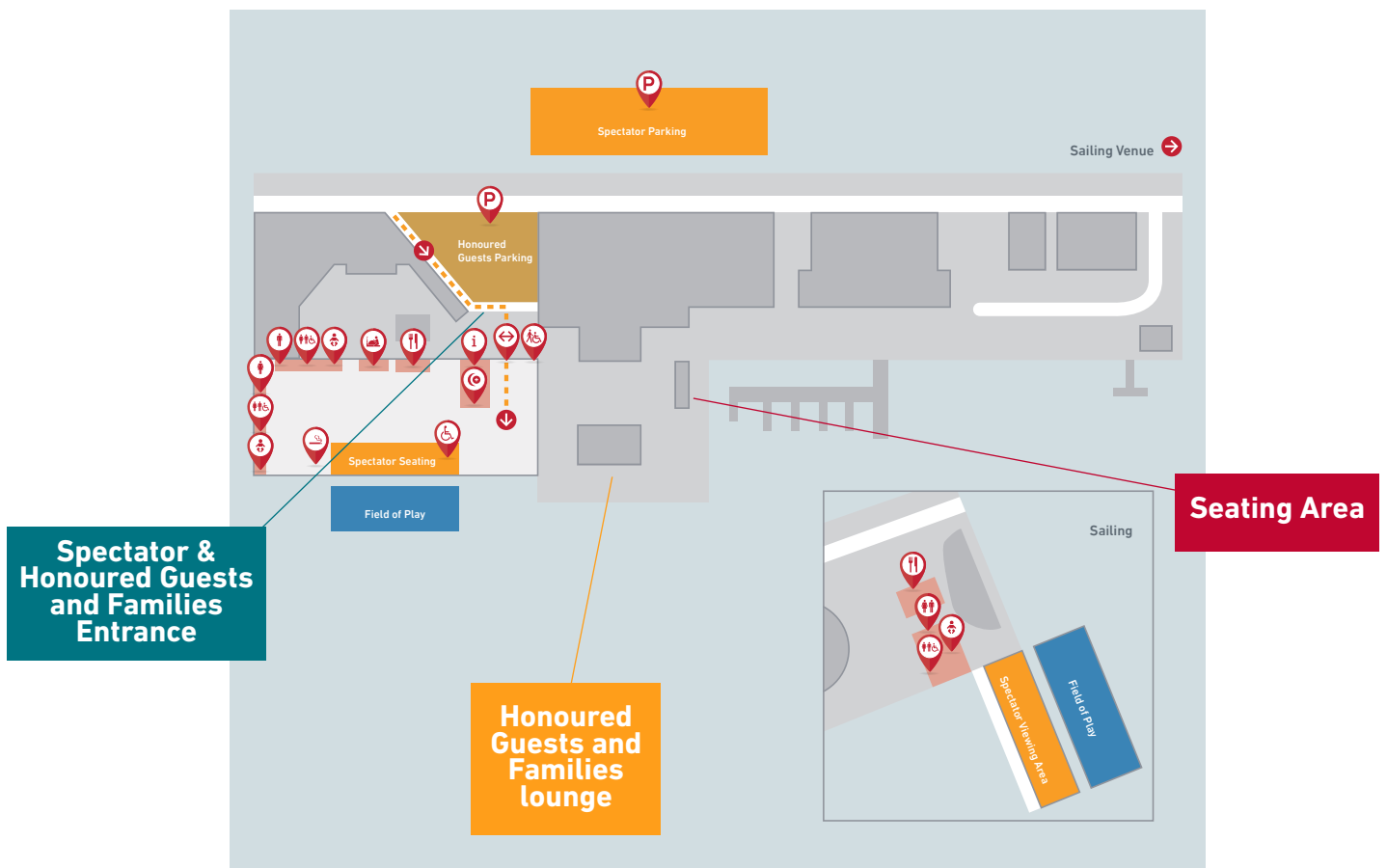


## 6.3.1 Zone 4

### Abu Dhabi Sailing & Yacht Club (SYC)

The Abu Dhabi Sailing & Yacht Club (ADSYC) is a well-established sailing & yacht club; home to a large variety of watersports including dhow sailing, yachting, dinghy sailing, surfing, rowing and kayaking. The ADSYC hosts a number of events for these sports on a local, regional and international level, and includes training facilities to develop sailing and rowing in UAE to the highest level. Sports Played in SYC:

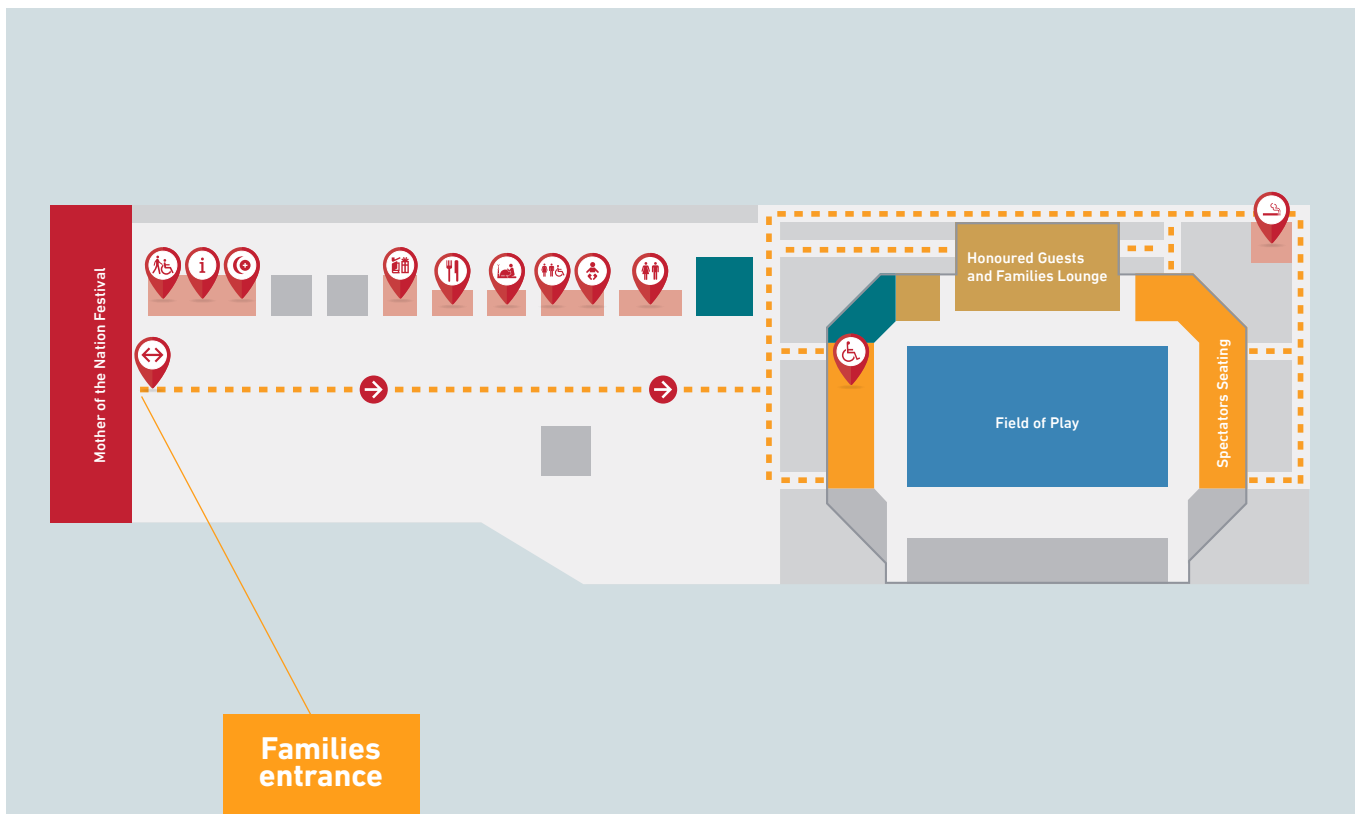
- Sailing
- Kayaking



## Corniche Beach (COR)

The Corniche Beach is one of the most iconic pieces of landscapes in the city. The city of Abu Dhabi estimates that anywhere from 50,000-30,000 visitors flock to the Corniche each month. The pristine waterfront area has been awarded Blu Flag status – the internationally renowned eco-label for beaches and marinas which ensures clean and safe bathing water. Sports Played in COR:

- Beach Volleyball

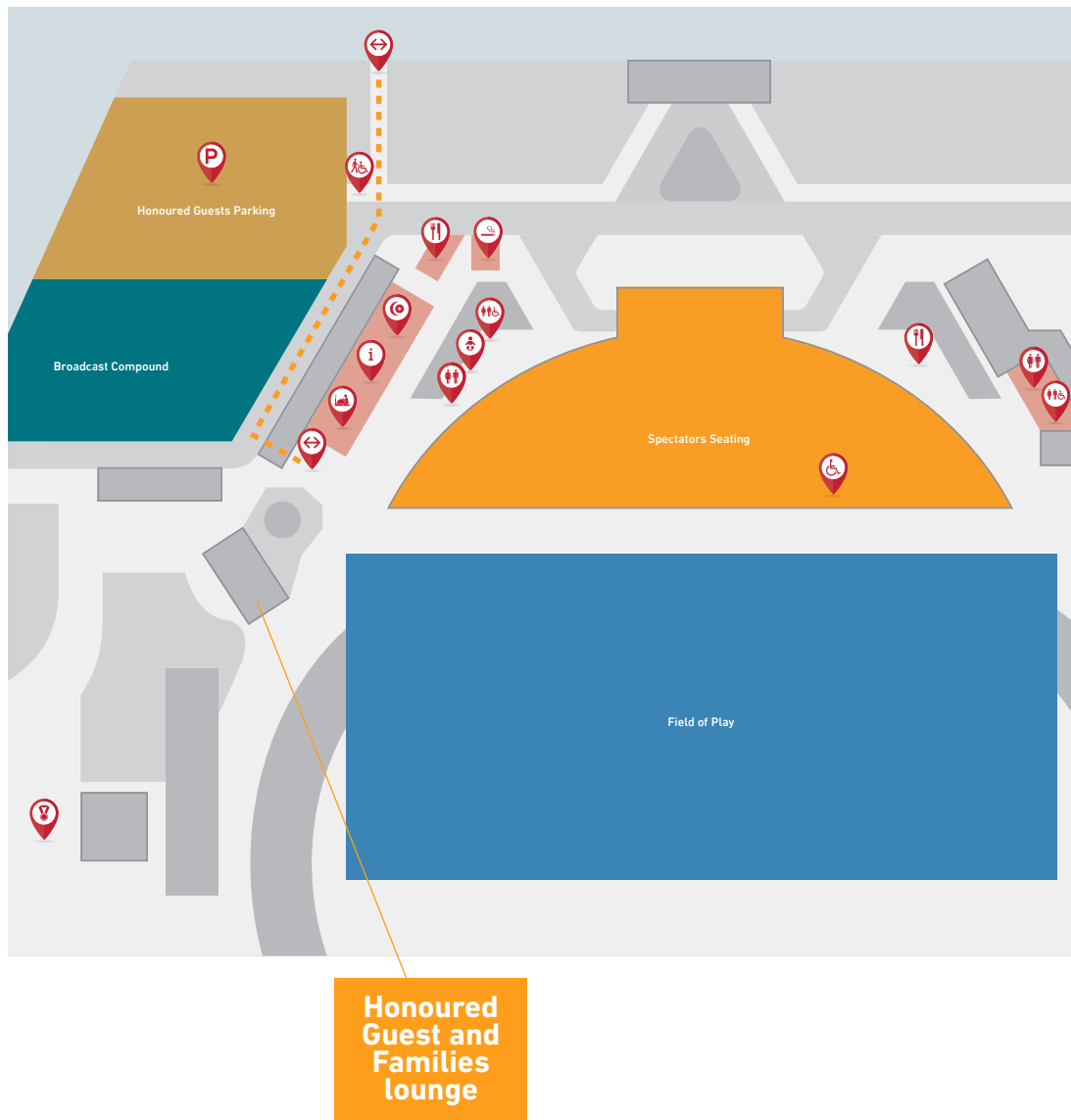


## 6.3.5 Zone 5

### Dubai Police Club Stadium (DPS)

Police Officers Club Stadium is a multi-use stadium in Dubai. The stadium holds 7,500 people. Facilities include 8 lane athletics track, football field, gymnasium and swimming pool. Sports Played in Dubai Police Club Stadium (DPS):

- Athletics



## Hamdan Sports Complex (HMD)

The Hamdan Sports Complex is a multi-purpose sports arena in Dubai. It boasts two -50meter swimming pools, and the advanced technology of moveable floors, the swimming pools can be transformed into -25meter pools at differing depth. The -15,000seat arena which was completed in summer 2010, has hosted the FINA/ARENA Swimming World Cup series, 2014 FIBA Under17- World Championship and the 2015 FIVB Volleyball Men's U23 World Championship. Sports Played in Hamdan Sports Complex (HMD):

- Swimming



## 7 NON-SPORTS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

### 7.1 Opening & Closing Ceremonies

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The ceremonies for the World Games 2019 promise to be the most spectacular ones ever staged in celebrating the Special Olympics movement. With all the pageantry and star power of any world-class event of this stature,

the ceremonies will unite people around the globe and highlight the diversity and beauty of Abu Dhabi and the UAE in the eyes of audiences viewing the event in over 190 countries.

#### 7.1.1 Ceremonies schedule

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##### Opening Ceremony

-  Location: Zayed Sports City Stadium
-  Date: March 14, 2019
-  Time: 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM

##### Closing Ceremony

-  Location: Zayed Sports City Stadium
-  Date: March 21, 2019
-  Time: 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM




Each registered and approved family member will receive one Opening and one Closing Ceremony ticket. The ticket along with the credential will be necessary to access the event.

**Free shuttle service will be provided for transportation from the family members' official hotels and Abu Dhabi main bus station in Abu Dhabi, and from Hamdan Sports Complex in Dubai to both ceremonies.**

## 7.2 Family Reception

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The Family Member's Reception is a welcome dinner invitation to all family members registered and approved under the Family Members' Program. It will be a casual barbecue dinner where family members will have the chance to experience some of the traditional Arabic entertainment activities like Hannah painting, live Arabic music and much more! As part of the event, family members residing in the UAE will also be invited and be given the opportunity to meet and connect with the guest family members.

-  Location: Armed Forces Officers Club and Hotel
-  Date: March 18, 2019
-  Time: 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm

**Please do not forget to bring your credential with you; credentials are required to access the event.**

**Free shuttle service will be provided for transportation from the family members' official hotels and Abu Dhabi main bus station in Abu Dhabi, Hamdan Sports Complex in Dubai to the Family reception venue.**

## 7.3 Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)

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### 7.3.1 Aim of the LETR

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics (LETR) is a major fundraiser and public education event run by an international coalition of law enforcement officers. The LETR plays an invaluable role in increasing public awareness and understanding of Special Olympics. It also showcases the city of Abu Dhabi and its facilities, landmarks, and tourist attractions.

In the weeks prior to the Games, local law enforcement officials will speak to many public and community groups about the Games, the LETR, and the mission of Special Olympics. Known as Guardians of the Flame, participating law enforcement members and Special Olympics Athletes will carry the "Flame of Hope" across the nation and into the Opening Ceremony.



## 7.3.2 Location



**Fujairah**

4 March



**Ras Al  
Khaimah**

5 March



**Umm Al  
Quwain**

6 March



**Ajman**

7 March



**Sharjah**

8 March



**Dubai**

9-10 March



**Abu Dhabi – Al  
Ain – Al Dhafra**

11-14 March

The “Torch Run” will take place across the UAE and ends in Abu Dhabi at the Opening Ceremony.

## 7.4 Healthy Athletes Program (HYA)

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® is a Special Olympics program that provides free health services including examinations and information to athletes.

Healthy Athletes activities are conducted in a fun, welcoming environment that removes the anxiety people with intellectual disabilities can

experience when visiting medical professionals. The examinations are designed to educate athletes on healthy lifestyle choices and identify problems that may need additional follow-up. Athletes in need will be provided with eye glasses, hearing aids and shoes as well as other products to help them during the Games.

**Family Members will not be able to benefit from this service.**

## 7.4.1 Examinations Offered

Examinations will be offered in 7 different health areas:



Health  
Promotion



Healthy  
Hearing



Lions Clubs  
International  
Opening Eyes



Special  
Smiles



Strong  
Minds



Fit  
Feet



FUN  
Fitness

## 7.4.2 Location & Schedule

Healthy Athletes will take place At ADNEC – Zone 1  
from the 12th until the 20th of March 2019



NON-SPORTS EVENTS  
AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

## 7.5 Play and Live Unified Zones (PUZ)

Play and Live Unified is a Special Olympics program that is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences incorporated into the sports competition schedule.

Play and Live Unified joins people of all ages, with and without intellectual disabilities, through matches and clinics between athletes and other

constituent groups. It adds another level to the Games by boosting the spirit of inclusion across communities and creating a strong bond between everyone involved.

Athletes will have the opportunity to take part in a number of Play and Live Experiences on competition days.

## 7.5.1 Play and Live Unified consists of 4 different categories

### Dedicated Zones

Sports with their own dedicated Play and Live Unified fields of play will run various clinics on competition days. The clinics will run during the day with school students, communities and athletes or after competition hours with a dedicated friendly match including athletes, honored guests, VIP's and sponsors.

### Unified Sports Experiences

Friendly matches held on a competition day incorporated into the sports competition schedules. Participants will include athletes, honored guests, VIP's and sponsors. All experiences will utilize the existing competition equipment and existing FOP's. Experiences will be incorporated into the sports schedules for several hours on one allocated day. All match formats vary and are dictated by SOI.

### Community

Community events using existing races and matches within local sport competition schedules and international sporting events in Abu Dhabi where athletes, communities, honored guests and sponsors will take part.

There will also be a number of evenings where athletes will get the opportunity to integrate with local communities in Abu Dhabi during reoccurring events that take place in the city on a weekly basis.

### Demonstrations and Exclusive Clinics

- Demonstrations<sup>1</sup> - A series of short demonstrations that will take place where athletes and guests can watch
- Exclusive Clinics <sup>2</sup> - A limited number of clinics will be held on the existing field of play for athletes to participate in. Like the above categories these will be incorporated into the sports schedule

<sup>1</sup> Incorporated into the sports schedule

<sup>2</sup> Incorporated into the sports schedule

## 7.6 Global Youth Summit

### 7.6.1 General Information

The Summit will bring young people with and without intellectual disabilities together to learn, network and share best practices. They will develop leadership skills that empower them as leaders in the Special Olympics Movement and drivers of inclusion throughout the world. The Summit will include sessions on inclusive leadership skills, helping the youth to identify their own leadership style, and how to work with and influence others. It will also include sessions on project management skills

that will help them put their ideas about inclusion into action. All participants applied with project proposals of how they want to expand or promote Special Olympics programming and make an impact for social inclusion in their home school or community. These projects range in topic from Unified health/fitness to developing employability skills, school-based activities to inclusive friendship camps, to awareness and advocacy campaigns.

NON-SPORTS EVENTS AND  
ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



### 7.6.2 Location & Schedule

The Global Youth Leadership Summit will be held at New York University Abu Dhabi from March 14 – 18, 2019. The Event is not open to the Public.

## 7.7 Young Athletes Festival

### 7.7.1 General Information

Special Olympics Young Athletes is a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Young Athletes offers families, teachers, caregivers and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with all children. The Program provides children with activities and games that meet their individual skill and ability levels, while allowing them to

play together in a fun and inclusive environment. The program shows that all children should be valued for their talents and abilities. Children of all abilities take part, and they all benefit where Children learn how to play with others and develop important skills for learning.

Children also learn to share, take turns and follow directions. These skills help children in family, community and school activities.

### 7.7.2 Location & Schedule

The Young Athletes Festival will take place on March 19, 2019 at ADNEC – Roller Skate Hall. Audience are family members of the kids participating at the event.

## 7.8 Arts & Culture Program

### 7.8.1 General information

The program aims to deliver series of art and culture initiatives to spread awareness, encourage inclusion and promote Special Olympics values through unified art activities. This includes journey events and Games-time art exhibition. The program includes art and photography workshops for young people with and without

intellectual disabilities which will be facilitated by professional artists and photographers. Selected art pieces resulted from these workshops will be exhibited in an inclusive art gallery organized during the World Games in March 2019. However, we extended the invitation to international photographers affiliated to ID

cause to feature some of their existing work at the exhibition. Additionally, series of movie screenings will be organized to showcase films which focus on life of people with disabilities. Screenings will be complimented with a pre-screening activation to engage movie-goers and raise greater awareness about the Games.

### 7.8.2 Location & Schedule

Arts and Culture Program Location and timing will be finalized at a later stage.



## 7.9 Public Art Reveal

### 7.9.1 General Information

The Special Olympics World Games 2019 is creating 7\* visible art pieces in collaboration with international artists that would:

- raise awareness about the cause of people with intellectual disabilities,
- commemorate the hosting of the Special Olympics World Games for the first time in Middle East and North Africa region since the movement's founding 50 years ago.
- and promote inclusion through pairing a person with an intellectual disability with an artist to create this art.

**\*Seven pieces to represent both, the seven Emirates in UAE and the 7 regions that the Special Olympics operates in.**

The artworks represent one or more of the Special Olympics values: Inclusion, acceptance, dignity, sportsmanship, health & fitness, athlete leadership & empowerment, bravery and courage, perseverance & determination, pride, justice and respect.



NON-SPORTS EVENTS  
AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

### 7.9.2 Location & Schedule

An event to reveal the 7 Artwork pieces, that was commissioned, and their concepts will take a place on Abu Dhabi Corniche, AlBahar. Date and timing will be finalized at a later stage.

## 7.10 Cheering for Special Olympics at the World Games

Special Abilities cheer squads from the United States, Russia, Japan, and Abu Dhabi will be participating in Games Cheering and Competition Demonstration Activities at the Special Olympics World Games. Organized by SO Cheer, the cheer squads made their debut at the Special Olympics World Summer Games Los Angeles 2015.

The Game Cheering Program will take place between March 15 and 20. Cheerleaders will cheer for the athletes and perform during halftime in 9 sports competitions at ADNEC—Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Gymnastics, Handball, Judo, Powerlifting, Roller Skating, and Volleyball. On March 19 and 20, SO Cheer and the International Cheer Union (ICU), the international sport federation for cheerleading, will organize a Competition Demonstration Program between the games during the basketball tournament.

## 7.11 Dance Sport Demonstration 2019

Special Abilities cheer squads from the United States, Russia, Japan, and Abu Dhabi will be participating in Games Cheering and Competition Demonstration Activities at the Special Olympics World Games. Organized by SO Cheer, the cheer squads made their debut at the Special Olympics World Summer Games Los Angeles 2015.

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During the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019 we will host a Special Olympics Dance Sport Demonstration with several dance events.

Following the Dance Contest (2015) in Los Angeles, USA and the World Dance Days (2017) in Graz, Austria, the Dance Sport Demonstration in Abu Dhabi will be the biggest dance competition ever held. We are expecting about 180 participants from almost 30 different Special Olympics Programs from all regions.

Dancers will perform in four different disciplines—ballroom dance, street dance, ballet and specialty—and in different categories such as solo, duos, couples and teams.

Dance Sport is now a demonstration activity for Special Olympics. The goal is to turn it into an official competition sport within the next two years.

## DANCE SPORT DEMONSTRATION - DIVISIONING

📅 Wednesday, March 13, 2019

🕒 All day – Schedule TBC

📍 Location: The Arts Center (Red Theatre), New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi

## DANCE SPORT DEMONSTRATION – FINALS SOLOS & DUOS

📅 Tuesday, March 19, 2019

🕒 TBC – Schedule TBC

📍 Location: The Arts Center (Red Theatre), New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi

## DANCE SPORT DEMONSTRATION – FINALS COUPLES & TEAMS

📅 Wednesday, March 20, 2019

🕒 TBC – Schedule TBC

📍 Location: The Arts Center (Red Theatre), New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi

Please note that if families would like to attend will need to register for a ticket (free of charge) and this ticket will need to be presented on arrival. The link to this is not yet available.

NON-SPORTS EVENTS AND  
ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



## 8 MISCELLANEOUS

### 8.1 Volunteers at the World Games

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The thousands of volunteers who will make these Games possible are committing time, energy, and passion to make this World Games unforgettable. The volunteers will be divided into ten categories:

- Sports
- Technology
- Events
- Medical
- Delegation Assistance Liaison
- Protocol
- Language services in the six official languages (Arabic, English, Spanish, French, Chinese, and Russian).
- Guest services
- Operations and Communication

Our volunteers will make sure that family members have the best experience during the Competition.



## 8.2 Medical Services

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Professional health care is provided to all credentialed participants, spectators and staff attending the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019.

### 8.2.1 Objective of Medical Services

Emergency medical services are designed to cover everybody present at the sports and non-sports venues, i.e. delegates, including athletes, spectators, volunteers and workforce. Medical emergencies will be treated on-site or referred to advanced medical care (hospital/clinic) provided by SEHA, Abu Dhabi's Health Services Company, as part of Abu Dhabi's healthcare system and Dubai

Health Authority, as part of Dubai's healthcare system. All attendees have access to emergency ambulances and paramedic services as well as on-site emergency clinics. All on-site healthcare will aim to address the emergency as much as medically required, but care may be transferred to the Abu Dhabi or Dubai hospital network if a more complex situation arises.

### 8.2.2 Medical Services System

Emergency clinics at the competition venues are open one hour prior to and one hour after competition times.

### 8.2.3 Medical Services provided in competition and non-competition venues

SEHA, Abu Dhabi's Health Services Company, is providing emergency clinics/stations at every competition venue and during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies where local medical staff will be identified through special vests or professional clothing with a name tag know the expertise of the local medical staff. Moreover, the emergency clinics/stations will be available in Abu Dhabi and Dubai International Airports. Abu Dhabi and Dubai Police are providing ambulances and paramedics at all competition venues and Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Due to the fact that sports are spread across a significant number of venues, venue emergency clinics will only provide basic services.

All kind of specialized care can be accessed through emergency clinics but will be provided in dedicated hospitals. Pharmacies are found all over in [Abu Dhabi](#) and [Dubai](#).

## 8.3 What Not to Bring to World Games Venues

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Families members attending the Opening and Closing ceremonies need to be careful with what to bring along to the venue. Prohibited items include (but not limited to):

- No Smoking
- No Power banks
- No Weapons
- No spray canisters
- No glass or cans
- No loud hailers or musical instruments
- No fireworks
- No Animals
- No Flags
- No banners or marketing material
- No professional cameras
- No laser pointers
- No foul, abusive, racist or homophobic language

## 9 RESOURCES

### 9.1 USEFUL URL LINKS

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#### Information about tourism

<https://government.ae/en/information-and-services/visiting-and-exploring-the-uae/what-to-do-in-the-uae/explore-the-uae-by-emirate->

[www.visitAbudhabi.ae](http://www.visitAbudhabi.ae)

<https://Abudhabiculture.ae/en>

[www.visitdubai.com/en/events](http://www.visitdubai.com/en/events)

[www.fujairahtourism.ae](http://www.fujairahtourism.ae)

<http://ajman.travel/>

<https://en.rasalkhaimah.ae/>

<https://www.visitsharjah.com/>

<https://www.uaq.ae/en/visitor.html>

#### Information about airports

[www.Abudhabiairport.ae/](http://www.Abudhabiairport.ae/)

[www.dubaiairports.ae](http://www.dubaiairports.ae)

#### Information about medicaments





Kindly check the link below which contains information about medicament import. You will find a list of unauthorized medicaments.

<https://www.government.ae/en/information-and-services/health-and-fitness/drugs-and-controlled-medicines/controlled-medicines->

## 9.2 Games Website

The official website of Abu Dhabi World Games is [www.abudhabi2019.org/](http://www.abudhabi2019.org/)  
 The Games website is a key portal for Games information

## 9.3 Special Olympics Social Media Accounts

Channel	Label/tag	URL
Website 	-	<a href="http://abudhabi2019.org">abudhabi2019.org</a>
Instagram 	@WorldGamesAd	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/worldgamesad">instagram.com/worldgamesad</a>
Twitter 	@WorldGamesAd	<a href="https://twitter.com/WorldGamesAD">Twitter.com/WorldGamesAD</a>
Facebook 	@WorldGamesAd	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/WorldGamesAD/">FB.com/WorldGamesAD/</a>

## 9.4 Families Program Website

The Family Members Program (also: “Family Program”) website will provide key information about the Family Members Program such as key dates, services and benefits, registration link and all the essential publications such as Registration Handbook, Family Handbook, venue maps.

Link: <https://www.abudhabi2019.org/familyprogram>

## 10 CLOSING WORDS

The Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 are much, much more than a sporting event. To the athletes who participate, they are the culmination of years of training and effort. To their families, the Games are a tremendous source of pride, an astonishing achievement, often a great deal of sacrifice and hardship. To the people of Abu Dhabi, are a transformational milestone, marking the moment when this place demonstrated the value of inclusion and the possibility for a more hopeful, joyful, and just world.

The thousands of volunteers who will make these Games possible are committing time, energy, and passion to make this dream come true. As one of those generous individuals, you should know that we are grateful for this gift, and that we know – and you should understand – that what you do in the weeks and months ahead will contribute to a more unified world.

In 1987, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the Special Olympics movement, said the following words to thousands of World Games Athletes, but they are equally suitable in describing the volunteers of the 2019 World Games:

“You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory.”

Thank you for helping us show the world that by opening our hearts to all, no matter what differences may exist, we acknowledge our common humanity, and celebrate the possibility of a unified future.

All the best,

**Khalfan Al Mazrouei**

Managing Director

Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**WORLD GAMES**  
ABU DHABI 2019

الأولمبياد الخاص  
**العالمية**  
أبوظبي 2019

 /WorldGamesAD  
#MeetTheDetermined #BeUnified  
AbuDhabi2019.org