

PRE GAMES TRAINING CAMPS

Northern Ireland

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What is a Pre Games Training Camp?

- A Pre Games Training Camp (PGTC) is a training camp for athletes of one or more disciplines held in the United Kingdom for athletes competing in the London 2012 Olympics / Paralympics in the twelve months prior to the Games.
- The Camp may be held at any time in the twelve months prior to the Games but is more likely to be held one – two weeks before the competition. Competitors will generally travel directly to the Games village for their events.

How were Venues for PGTCs Selected?

- A LOCOG technical committee, in conjunction with the British Olympic Association set strict criteria for each discipline.
- Venue operators were invited to nominate their facilities for hosting PGTCs. These nominations were vetted locally and nationally.
- All accredited facilities including those located in Northern Ireland have been included in the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) documentation.

How many accredited facilities are located in Northern Ireland?

- There are 25 accredited venues for Olympic disciplines – some of these can accommodate a single discipline eg: Salto Gymnastics centre whilst others can host a range of Olympic disciplines such as Queens PEC (Judo, Table Tennis, Taekwondo and Hockey)
- There are three ‘hub’ venues with associated ‘satellite’ facilities for paralympic disciplines.

What Olympic Disciplines can be catered for?

Boxing, Athletics, Judo, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Wrestling, Sailing, Boxing, beach volleyball, Archery, Cycling, Equestrian, Soccer, Fencing, Hockey, Badminton, Gymnastics, Basketball.

And a wide range of paralympic disciplines including Boccia, Goalball and Wheelchair rugby.

Importance of Attracting PGTCs to NI.

- As part of the bidding process, London stated that sporting events would be hosted throughout all regions of the United Kingdom. As there will be no competition in Northern Ireland it was considered important that PGTCs should be attracted to the province.
- DCAL have set a PSA target of endeavouring to attract ten visiting teams to Northern Ireland.
- SNI have been tasked with taking the lead in assisting DCAL attain this target.

Why locate your PGTC in Northern Ireland?

1. Similar climatic conditions / time zone in a relaxed and stress free environment;
2. Approximately one hour travel time to London;
3. A friendly welcome with a 'one-stop-shop' approach;
4. Accessible medical facilities for athletes and other top quality ancillary facilities;
5. A range of accommodation options.

Difficulties in attracting PGTCs to Northern Ireland.

- Geographical distance between London and Northern Ireland;
- Additional travel costs for visiting teams;
- Logistical problems for some disciplines ie: equestrian;
- Significant numbers of high level facilities available in South East England;
- Significant numbers of high level facilities available in Northern Europe;
- No competition venues in Northern Ireland;
- Some disciplines will have qualifying competitions that will reduce the number of countries being represented in London.

Actions to attract visiting countries to NI Pre Games Training Camps and Events

- An Inter-agency sub group was established consisting of representatives from SNI, DCAL, NITB, Invest NI, and Disability Sports NI;
- Recognition of the importance of using personal contacts within governing bodies to attract visiting teams;
- Recognition that Pre Games Events may be more beneficial than Pre Games Training Camps;
- Recognising that funding would be required to assist governing bodies develop contacts, etc, DCAL has allocated funding to SNI for assisting with travel costs etc. SNI are administering the programme and supporting the governing bodies in their efforts to secure pre games camps / events.

Successful Governing Bodies

Eight governing bodies were successful in their application for funding in this financial year:

- Badminton;
- Athletics;
- Judo;
- Sailing;
- Fencing;
- Table Tennis;
- Gymnastics.
- Paralympic Sports.

It is anticipated that further funding will be made available in the next financial year and other governing bodies may seek to avail of this.

Timeline

Qualification for most Olympic disciplines will not be determined until Spring 2012. Thus, most small to medium countries will not know the composition of their teams until that time.

Other Funding

- The IOC (International Olympic Committee) will pay the travel expenses of teams to London from their country of origin.
- LOCOG will make £25,000 available to each NOC/NPC to assist with the costs of a PCTC.

Participation Legacy

- Sport Northern Ireland is confident that the London Olympics will result in a heightened awareness and interest in sport;
- As part of this we are running our Activ8 participation Campaign;
- This is targeted at every single primary school child in NI
- 100,000 young people P1 – P7;
- It promotes physical activity and a healthy lifestyle;
- Including a Challenge Diary;
- An Olympic Art Competition;
- An Activ8 Fun Run as part of Belfast City Marathon;
- Activ8 supported School Sports Days;
- It will run from January to July;
- July marks 1 year to go to the Olympics.

Relocatable Assets

Potential exists for Olympic facilities to be relocated to Northern Ireland. A programme has been put in place for all regions in the UK to bid for relocatable assets eg: specialist flooring, relocatable structures, portable swimming tanks. To date, seven organisations have expressed an interest in these.