

EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL 2009 AT TAMPERE

The City of Tampere will host the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) from 18-25 July, 2009. There are 9 summer sports in the programme. All 49 member countries of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) will send a team to participate in the games. The number of accredited team members is about 3 500.

The games will be organised by the City of Tampere, Finnish Olympic Committee and the sports organisation Hämeen Liikunta ja Urheilu (HLU). The programmes will be organised by local sports clubs. The programme in Tampere will be broader than in any previous EYOF games so far. The Tampere games will mark the tenth anniversary of the EYOF festival, since the games have been arranged biennially since 1991.

The best young athletes from Europe

The sports in the EYOF 2009 are judo, basketball, handball, volleyball, cycling, tennis, swimming, gymnastics and athletics. Each sport has a quota for the maximum number of participants. In team sports, an 8-team tournament will be played in both boys' and girls' series. For the first time in the EYOF history, the Tampere games will include boys' artistic gymnastics. The participants' ages have been limited to two birth years. As a result, every youngster has only one chance to participate in the EYOF games. The participating athletes are 13-18 years old, depending on the sport.

Olympic protocol in practice

The EYOF games provide the young an opportunity to experience a high-class athletic event and to meet other cultures. The EYOF is the first multi-sport event for the young athletes, and therefore a significant experience along their way to top athletic performance and fame. The games are also an opportunity to educate the participating young athletes about the Olympic spirit, since the games adhere to the Olympic protocol. The ceremonies include opening celebration (Sunday evening, 19 July 2009), parade of the participants, the Olympic flame, the Olympic flag and national anthems and emblems. The ceremonies and arrangements of the EYOF games at Tampere will display Tampere's unique qualities and emphasise the principle "from youth to youth". The values driving the games are sportsmanship, sustainable development, ecological responsibility and economy.

Athletes' village at Hervanta

The centre of the games will be at Hervanta, where the Olympic village will be constructed in the premises of Police College of Finland, Pirkan Opiskelija-asunnot Oy, The Tampere Student Housing Foundation and Tampere University of Technology. The services at the Hervanta area are widely employed by the games.

Local sports clubs as programme organisers

Local sports clubs are responsible for organising the programmes. The clubs' officials have considerable experience from many national and international games, and will be a significant factor in ensuring the success of the programmes. The Ratina stadium, beautifully renovated for the 2008 Kaleva Games, will be the arena for athletics at the EYOF games. The handball, volleyball and gymnastics competitions will be held at the Tampere Exhibition and Sports Centre. Three sports in a single location will make Tampere Exhibition and Sports Centre one of the most interesting venues in the games, with plenty of sports to watch during the entire week.

Call for volunteers

For the most part, the games will be organised by volunteer work. Approximately 1 500 volunteers are needed for various tasks. Working as a volunteer for the EYOF has attracted a lot of interest. Several applications have come from abroad. The local sports clubs will supply the personnel needed for the programme by themselves. There will certainly be many interesting tasks for every volunteer.

What is EYOF?

In 1990, the European Olympic Committees launched the European Youth Olympic Days (EYOD) which has since become known as the EYOF, the only multisport event taking place in Europe.

The idea of organising the European Games (launched before the association had been constituted but then abandoned) was thus taken up again. The EYOFs, including the winter and summer editions, are organised every two years. The first summer edition was organised in 1991 in Brussels, Belgium.

Tourist information

The City of Tampere's Tourism promotion company GoTampere offers services for tourists. GoTampere provides tourists with travel information and can also reserve accommodation. A GoTampere tourist information centre is located at the Tampere railway station (Rautatiekatu 25 A). For more tourist information about Tampere, please see www.gotampere.fi