

For Immediate Release



The 7th World Dwarf Games: August 4 to 12, 2017

GUELPH, Ontario, August 5, 2017 - The University of Guelph (U of G) has been chosen by the International Dwarf Athletic Federation (IDAF) to host the **7th World Dwarf Games** from August 4 to 12, 2017. Nestled about an hour west of Toronto, the U of G, established in 1964, spans across more than 1,000 acres and provides the perfect backdrop for this momentous event. "The Board of IDAF is excited and looking forward to the 2017 World Dwarf Games and it is hoped that this event will bring even more awareness to the world that there are fantastic opportunities to be had in sport for people with dwarfism." (Arthur Dean, President of IDAF)

The World Dwarf Games (WDG) have been held every four years since 1993. People with dwarfism of all ages and abilities are invited to compete in a variety of sporting events. Athletes from around the world compete, whether on their own country teams or mixed-country teams, with people of similar stature. The 2013 WDG were held in East Lansing Michigan, where Michigan State University hosted approximately 400 athletes from 17 countries.

Opening Ceremonies will be held at Alumni Stadium at 7pm on August 4 and competitive events begin on August 5 and will include Badminton, Track & Field Athletics, Boccia, Swimming, Soccer, Basketball, Powerlifting, Table Tennis, Floor Hockey, Volleyball, Archery, and Marksmanship. Special events for the youngest athletes will also include curling and mini-sticks. The University of Guelph will provide the sporting venues, athlete accommodations and will host the opening and closing ceremonies.

The games are organized by age divisions ranging from the Futures Division, for those under 6 years of age, to the Masters Division, for those athletes over 35 years of age. Athletes will be organized as well as by dwarfism classifications, including Paralympic Class 1-2-3, based upon body

proportions. The IDAF rules state that persons who qualify for participation in the games shall have a disproportionate dysplasia (ie achondroplasia, acromesomelic dysplasia) or not exceed 4 feet 10 inches (147.2 centimeters) for a proportionate short stature due to medical reasons.

The IDAF's mandate is to (a) encourage international sporting competition amongst dwarf athletes; (b) represent the needs of dwarf athletes amongst other international sporting organizations; (c) set and maintain standard rules for sports used in international competition; (d) establish eligibility and profiling rules for participating athletes; and (e) support a World Games every four years.

The 2017 World Dwarf Games will be the largest sporting event held exclusively for athletes with dwarfism. The Canadian bid was submitted by a group of volunteers from Ontario, led by Heather Anderson, the mother of a 19-year old son with dwarfism. When questioned about the group's objective she stated, "the team is dedicated to bringing children, young adults, men and women with dwarfism together from around the world to participate in sporting events in the spirit of competition, international cooperation and goodwill, regardless of athletic ability."

Frank Cain, U of G's assistant facility manager and business development officer, confirmed the University was awarded the games for 2017. "We are very excited to be hosting this event and hope to create an exciting event and athlete village on campus," he wrote.

The excitement will certainly be fever pitch amongst the dwarf athletes!

Additional information regarding Dwarf Athletics and past Games can be obtained from the following websites: www.worlddwarfgames2017.org; www.daaa.org ; www.daaca.ca; <https://www.dsauk.org/>

Information about dwarfism is also available through the Little People of Ontario website www.lpo.on.ca and Little People of America website www.lpaonline.org

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