



TM

**WORLD ATHLETICS
CROSS COUNTRY
CHAMPIONSHIPS
BELGRADE 24**

**MEDIA
GUIDE**



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Message from World Athletics President

Dear media colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the 45th edition of the World Athletics Cross Country Championships here in Belgrade, Serbia.

We're delighted to be back here just two years after this city hosted a wonderful edition of the World Indoor Championships. On that occasion, Belgrade welcomed the world's best athletes as they competed for medals indoors. The setting may be different for these championships, but the sport's leading stars will once again converge here to race for global honours.

The Cross Country Championships is the oldest World Athletics Series event on the calendar. Indeed, it was first held in 1903, as the International Cross Country Championships before World Athletics was founded.

This event has always been close to my heart. Growing up on the cross country circuit, I have often said that cross country racing laid the foundation for everything I have achieved as an athlete. It is the great equaliser, an event where athletes specialising in the middle and long-distance both stand a chance of taking home top prize – it is truly anyone's race!

Two countries have dominated these championships for the past four decades. Between them, Ethiopia and Kenya have won every women's team title since 1995. And only once in the past 40 years has the men's team title gone to anyone else.

This year, roughly 500 athletes from more than 60 teams will descend on Friendship Park to participate in the elite event. Five cross-country races will be held on 30 March in what will undoubtedly be a sensational day of distance running.

As members of the media, you each have the momentous task of capturing these awe-inspiring moments and reporting them back to your readers and audiences back home. We never underestimate the importance of your role in ensuring that our sport, and all





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of its disciplines, reaches our fans in all four corners of the globe and will always do everything in our power to assist you in providing them with the best possible coverage.

I would like to thank the Local Organising Committee, the City of Belgrade, the Serbian Athletics Federation, and World Athletics' official partners and suppliers for their contribution to the running of these championships.

Finally, I wish the attending media an excellent experience reporting on this prestigious global sporting event.

With kind regards,

Sebastian Coe,
President, World Athletics



Message from LOC President

“Athletics has a long tradition and a great reputation in Serbia thanks to outstanding performances of our athletes, such as Ivana Španović, Asmir Kolašinac, Emir Bekrić, Amela Terzić, Mihal Dudaš and many more. They are not only globally recognized personalities, but also an inspiration for the youngest, future stars of world athletics.

Belgrade was honoured to host European Athletics Indoor Championships in 2017, which was a great experience for both local spectators and European athletes. This was the second time the event was held in Belgrade after the European Indoor Games in 1969. The huge success of the Championships in 2017 was an impulse to move to the next level. We worked hard and we dreamed big.

In 2022, our dream is becoming a reality with the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22, a biggest event of its kind in the history of Serbia, where athletes from all countries across the globe will compete for medals and glory. Now we are entrusted with yet another World Championships. This year World Cross Country Championships is taking place in Belgrade 30 March.

We, the local organising committee, will do everything possible to ensure you have a good time. However, beyond entertainment, our mission is also to stress the values of hard work, dedication and fairness, values that inspire people all across the globe and help them to overcome challenges of their everyday lives.

Welcome to Belgrade! We are delighted to host the best runners of the world and admire their extraordinary performances, but also to celebrate passion and the strength of human spirit, which has unlimited potential to change the world we live in. In challenging times, sport unites us! Let’s spread this message together, through these wonderful championships.”

Slobodan Branković,
LOC President





WORLD ATHLETICS COUNCIL MEMBERS

1.	Sebastian COE (2003)	GBR	President
2.	Ximena RESTREPO (2019)	HI	Senior Vice President
3.	Adille SUMARIWALLA (2015)	IND	Vice President
4.	Raul CHAPADO (2019)	ESP	Vice President
5.	Jackson TUWEI (2023)	KEN	Vice President
6.	Nawal EL MOUTAWAKEL (1995)	MAR	Individual Member
7.	Abby HOFFMAN (1995)	CAN	Individual Member
8.	Dahlan AL HAMAD (2003)	QAT	Asia Area Rep.
9.	Hamad Kalkaba MALBOUM (2007)	CMR	Africa Area Rep.
10.	Anna RICCARDI (2007)	ITA	Individual Member
11.	Sylvia BARLAG (2011)	NED	Individual Member
12.	Antti PIHLAKOSKI (2015)	FIN	Individual Member
13.	Nan WANG (2019)	CHN	Individual member
14.	Willie BANKS (2019)	USA	Individual Member
15.	Dobromir KARAMARINOV (2019)	BUL	Europe Area Rep.
16.	Beatrice AYIKORU (2019)	UGA	Individual member
17.	Mike SANDS (2019)	BAH	NACAC Area Rep.
18.	Helio GESTA DE MELO (2019)	BRA	AS Area Rep.
19.	Robin Sapong EUGENIO (2019)	NMI	Oceania Area Rep.
20.	Yuko ARIMORI (2023)	JPN	Individual member
21.	Annette PURVIS (2023)	NZL	Individual member
22.	Nataliia DOBRYNSKA (2023)	UKR	Individual member
23.	Cydonie MOTHERSILL (2023)	CAY	Individual member
24.	Donna RAYNOR (2023)	BER	Individual member
25.	Valerie ADAMS (2019)	NZL	Athletes' Commission Rep.
26.	Matthew HUGHES (2023)	CAN	Athletes' Commission Rep.

CEO: Jon Ridgeon GBR



HOST COUNTRY

Serbia has connected West with East for centuries – a land where civilizations, cultures, faiths, climates and landscapes meet and mingle. From the agricultural regions of the Pannonian Plain in the north, across the fertile river valleys and orchard-covered hills of Šumadija, the landscape of Serbia continues southward, gradually giving way to mountains rich in canyons, gorges and caves, as well as well-preserved forests.

Today, Serbia is a modern, democratic European country, on the path to membership of the European Union, which a diverse range of visitors – from young backpackers to participants in congresses and fairs, cultural and sport events – visit every day.

FACTS & FIGURES

- Official name: Republic of Serbia (in Serbian: Република Србија)
- Population: more than 7,000,000
- Capital city: Belgrade (in Serbian: Београд), population more than 1,600,000
- Climate: moderate continental – monthly average varies from 1,4°C in January to 23,0°C in July.
- Time zone: Central European, CET (GMT + 1 hour)
- Currency: Serbian Dinar
- Electricity: Serbia operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. The electrical socket used are: type C and type F plug





HOST CITY

Belgrade is the capital city of Serbia and has a population of around 1.7 million. It is one of the oldest cities in Europe and has since ancient times been an important crossing of the ways where the roads of eastern and western Europe meet. During its long and tumultuous history, Belgrade has been conquered by 40 armies, and 38 times it has been raised up from the ashes.

The city lies on two international waterways, at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, which surround it on three sides. Because of this position, Belgrade is fittingly referred to as the Gateway to the Balkans and the Door to Central Europe.

Belgrade is the capital of Serbian culture, education and science. It has the greatest concentration of institutions of national importance in the field of science and art. The city is also the seat of the Belgrade University, founded in 1808 as the Great School, and the seat of the University of Art.

Belgrade has the status of a separate territorial unit in Serbia, having its own autonomous city government. Its territory is divided into 17 municipalities, having their own local governmental bodies.





LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

LOC PRESIDENT

Slobodan Branković

CEO

Predrag Momirović

CEO assistant

Danijela Mitrić

ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL SERVICES

Jovan Kantar

FINANCE

Ivan Krsmanović

ACCOMODATION

Jelena Mozetić

TRANSPORTATION

Milan Bojčić

MARKETING

Milan Ćirilović

MEDIA OPERATIONS

Nebojša Radović

COMMUNICATION AND PR

Katarina Stevanović

VENUE MANAGER

Nenad Milošević

SECURITY

Bogdan Knežević

IT

Aleksandar Jevtić

ACCREDITATION

Marko Popadić

LOGISTICS

Petar Matić

CUSTOMS

Dejan Đokić

VOLUNTEERS

Ana Paunović

MEDICAL AND ANTIDOPING

Nikola Ćikiriz

COMPETITION MANAGER

Marko Ristov

EVENT PRESENTATION MANAGER

Branislav Erdeljanović

VICTORY CEREMONIES MANAGER

Marija Radošević

DESIGN MANAGER

Bojan Georgievski

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Tanja Branković



DELEGATES AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS LIST

Technical Delegate	Masimo MAGNANI (ITA)
Medical Delegate	Stéphane BERMON (FRA)
Anti-Doping Delegate	Stefano LONGO (ITA)
Press Delegate	Zacharias VAILAKIS (GRE)
Advertising Commissioner	Karena VLECK (GBR)
Jury of Appeal	TBD
Sec to the Jury of Appeal	Pierce O'CALLAGHAN (IRL)

MEDIA OPERATIONS

LOC MEDIA OPERATIONS TEAM CONTACT LIST

Head of Media Operations

Nebojša Radović
nebojsa.radovic@wabelgrade24.com
+38163224039

Media Centre Manager:

Sanja Buljanović
+381653083836

Photo Manager:

Ivica Veselinov
+381652169296

Mixed Zone Manager:

Aleksa Savić
+381603010374

Head of Communications and PR

Katarina Stevanović
+381648618845
katarina.stevanovic@wabelgrade24.com

WORLD ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA OPERATIONS CONTACT LIST

Communications

Head of Communications

Maggie Durand
maggie.durand@worldathletics.org

Head of Digital Media

Laura Arcoleo
laura.arcoleo@worldathletics.org

Media Operations

Head of Media Operations & Projects Integration

Zacharias Vailakis
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ACCREDITATIONS

Procedure

Each person involved in the World Athletics Cross Country Championships Belgrade 24 will receive an accreditation card which must be worn during the entire competition and should be clearly visible.

Accreditations must be picked up in person with a valid passport or identity card as proof of ID.

The accreditation card is non-transferable and does not allow the holder to take another person beyond the security checkpoint.

Any lost or damaged accreditation card should be reported immediately to the Accreditation Centre.

Accreditation Centre

Media accreditations can be collected at the Main Accreditation Centre at the Park prijateljstva venue.

Working hours:

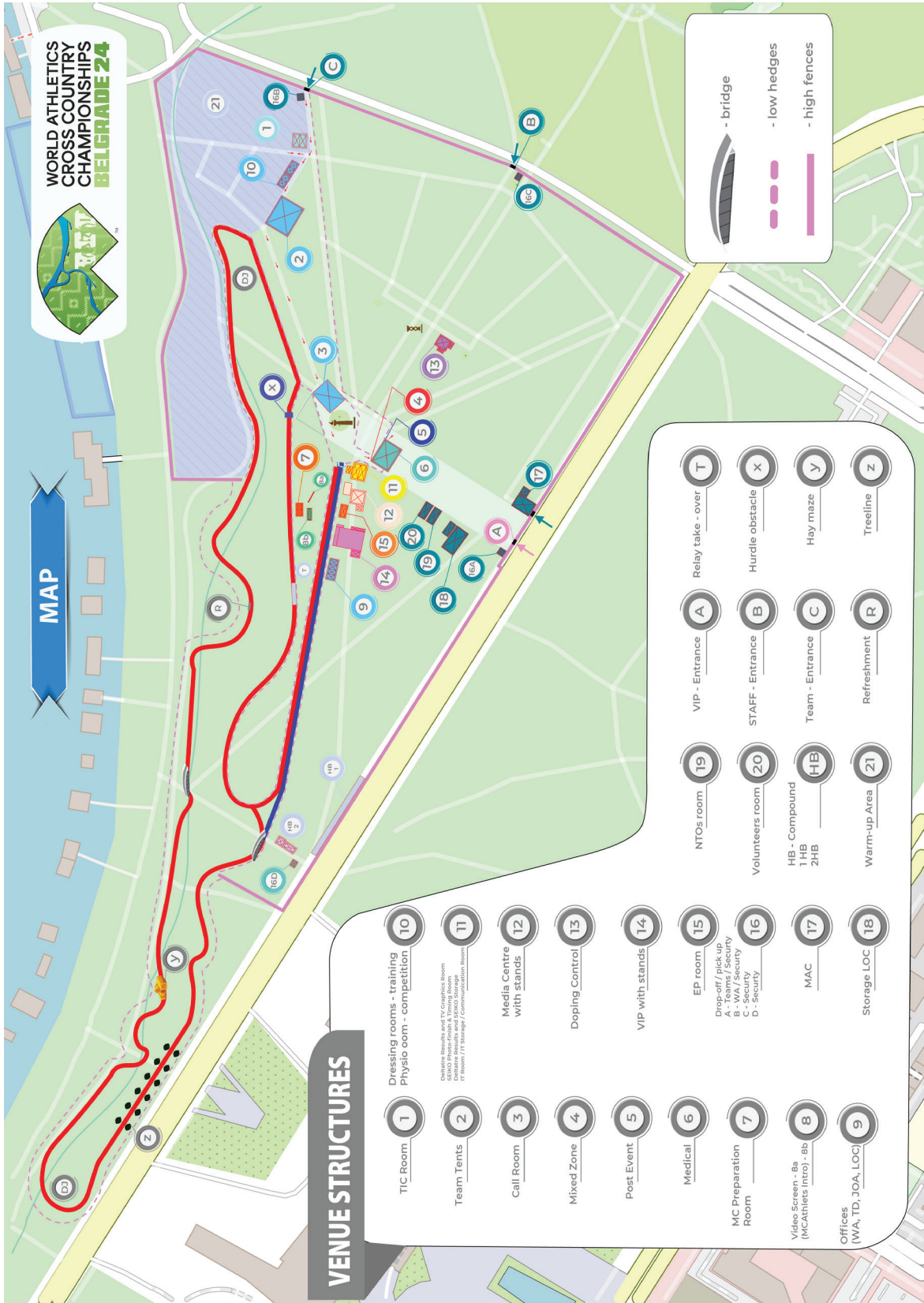
Thursday, March 28: 09:00 - 19:00

Friday, March 29: 09:00 - 19:00

Saturday, March 30: 09:00 - 15:00



VENUE MAP





MEDIA ACCOMMODATION

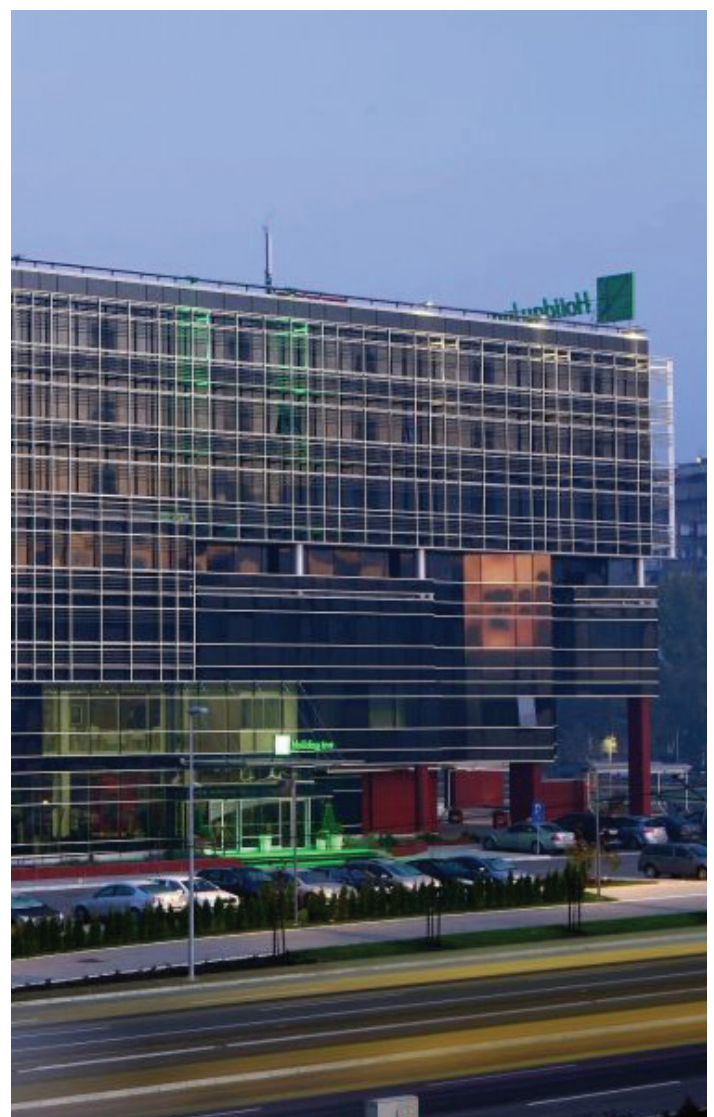
Hotel Putnik Inn 3*

Putnik Inn Belgrade has 85 standard rooms, 19 suites and 1 room for people with special needs. The rooms are pleasant and meet the needs of the modern traveller. In the immediate vicinity of the hotel there is the Zemun Millennium Building, the Gardoš Fortress, the Madlenianum Opera House and the Danube Quay.



Holiday Inn 4*

Conference hotel in the New Belgrade business district, with event facilities and a spa. Just off the E70 motorway the Holiday Inn® Belgrade hotel is 15 minutes by car from Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport (BEG). New Belgrade bus and train station is a five-minute walk away.





MEDIA ENTRANCE

Media enter the venue only via Media Entrance which will be visibly signed. Please do not use the public entrance during the event.

All the accredited media have to pass the security check when entering the venue. We kindly ask media to respect the security check rules.





MEDIA TRANSPORT

Media transport shuttle pick up / drop off at the Park prijateljstva venue will be at Position 16B (please check the enclosed map). The Media Transport Schedule is as follows:

Hotel HOLIDAY INN - UŠĆE- Hotel HOLIDAY INN

28-Mar	
from hotel	from UŠĆE
10:45	
12:00	15:00
12:45	15:45
13:30	17:00

29-Mar	
from hotel	from UŠĆE
9:45	
10:45	
12:00	15:00
12:45	15:45
13:30	17:00

30-Mar	
from hotel	from UŠĆE
07:30	
08:30	
09:30	
10:30	
11:30	12:00
12:30	13:00
13:30	14:00
	15:00
	16:00
	17:00
	18:00

Hotel PUTNIK - UŠĆE- Hotel PUTNIK

28-Mar	
from hotel	from UŠĆE
10:45	
12:00	15:00
12:45	15:45
13:30	17:00

29-Mar	
from hotel	from UŠĆE
9:45	
10:45	
12:00	15:00
12:45	15:45
13:30	17:00

30-Mar	
from hotel	from UŠĆE
07:30	
08:30	
09:30	
10:30	
11:30	12:00
12:30	13:00
13:30	14:00
	15:00
	16:00
	17:00
	18:00

On March 29th the shuttle for media for the Pre-event Press Conference will be organized from the Park prijateljstva venue at 11:00 CET.



MEDIA CENTRE

The Media Centre is located next to the Finish line of the course in the Park prijateljstva complex

Operating Days / Hours

Thursday 28 March **11:00 - 17:00**

Friday 29 March **10:00 - 17:00**

Saturday 30 March **08:00 - 18:00**

We kindly ask media to respect the working hours. Any changes will be announced and clearly displayed in the Media Centre.

The Media Centre offers the following services and facilities to all accredited media:

- Welcome desks and Help desks managed by LOC Media Operations Team
- 30+ working places with desks on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Power, wired and wireless internet connectivity
- TV screens showing the dedicated live invenue feed
- CIS terminals for live timing and scoring
- Copy centre
- Lockers (mainly for photographers) available on a first-come, first-serve basis
- Complete media information, including printed, collated start lists for each session
- Refreshments (water, coffee, tea, fruits) for free

MEDIA TRIBUNE

The Media Tribune is located next to the Media Centre and the Mixed Zone, near the finish line.

The tabled seats positions on the media tribune are equipped by power and internet connectivity (both wired and wireless), and shared TV screens.

The shared TVs on the Media Tribune will provide the live feed from the course.



IT TECHNOLOGY

Wired and wireless internet is available for accredited media in working areas. The information about password will be distributed in the Media Centre. Technical support will be present in the Media Centre – in case it is needed please contact Media Helpdesk.

MEDIA CATERING

A choice of refreshments (water, tea, coffee) and light snacks will be available for free in the Media Centre.

MIXED ZONE

The Mixed Zone provides an opportunity for media to interview athletes immediately after the competition.

The Mixed Zone is divided into two separate sections and follows a pre-determined priority order:

1. Live TV Mixed Zone (Dedicated) for Rights holding TV and radio broadcasters with pre-booked positions.
2. Non-Live TV Mixed Zone (Non-Dedicated) for following types of media
 - a. ENG crews and non-live radio broadcasters
 - b. Written Press
 - c. Non- Rights Holding Broadcasters

All athletes will pass through the Mixed Zone on completion of every event.

PRE-EVENT PRESS CONFERENCE

The pre-event press conference will take place at the Town Hall, also known as the Old Court Palace, on Friday, 29 March at 12:00 CET.

Address: Dragoslava Jovanovića 2, Beograd 11000

There will be transport shuttle for media organized from the Park prijateljstva venue at 11:00 CET.



RULES FOR ACCREDITED MEDIA

The media facilities – Media Centre, Media Tribune, Mixed Zones – are areas designated for working media and the officials associated with media relations and media services and must be respected as such.

Therefore, accredited media are asked to follow the rules to respect of these working areas:

- Accredited media are not allowed to switch accreditation passes in any case.
- Accredited media are not allowed to ask athletes for personal pictures or autographs at any time in any of designated media working areas. Any journalists doing so will have their accreditation revoked.
- Cheering and “fan behaviour” in the media facilities will be reprimanded as it is unprofessional and disturbs other working media.
- Wearing national team jersey or any excessive fan apparel in designated media working areas is inappropriate, and accredited journalists (except of Team Press Liaisons) who will do so will be asked to remove it.
- Accredited media are not permitted to drink alcohol in the media working areas. Any journalist under the influence of alcohol or drugs will have their accreditation revoked and escorted off the premises.
- Photographers are not allowed to reserve photo positions, either by using stickers or leaving their equipment in a given area. Only International News Agencies are entitled to do so with the agreement of World Athletics.
- Photo equipment should be free of any “big and visible” branding, in particular camera lenses.
- Photographers should dress adequately to a working environment, eg. no flipflops if working on the infield, neutral colours clothing etc.
- No eating or smoking are allowed on the infield.
- Break of any of these rules may result in accreditation being revoked



PHOTOGRAPHER INFORMATION

Working Areas

Photographers are able to work from the Media Centre, with desks available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Photo Bibs

The photo bibs allow accredited photographers access to photo positions and must be worn all the times. The photo bibs will be distributed to all the accredited photographers on the Photo Briefing. The deposit of 1000RSD (or 10 EUR) in cash is required for the Photo Bib refundable on return at the end of the event.

The type of bibs used for the event is:

- Green for infield photographers
- Yellow for outfield photographers

Lost or stolen bibs must be reported to LOC Media Operations Team as soon as possible.

PHOTO LOCKERS

Lockers mainly for photographers are available in the Media Centre. The deposit of 1000 RSD (or 10 EUR) in cash is required for the locker, refundable on return at the end of the event.

REMOTE CAMERAS

All remote camera installations must be approved by the World Athletics Press Delegate and LOC Photo Chief.

PHOTO BRIEFING

March 30

08:00

at the Media Centre



USEFUL INFORMATION

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Police 192
Ambulance 194
Fire Department 193
Road Assistance 1987

OPENING HOURS

ATMS: 24 hours
Banks: 0900 – 1600 (Week Days Only)
Shopping Malls: 0900 – 2200

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Belgrade city public transport is provided through a network of bus, trolleybus and tram routes run by GSP “Beograd” and bus services operated by private bus companies, on around 130 routes.

There are also express minibus services which are a little more expensive, but also more comfortable and quicker as they do not stop at every bus-stop.

Tickets are time based and can be purchased on the bus/tram via a text message.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=buslogic.beogradplus&hl=en&gl=US>

<https://apps.apple.com/rs/app/beograd-plus/id6450010805>

Apart from the public transport service, there are a number of TAXI companies.

BANKING

The official currency in Serbia is SERBIAN DINAR. No other currency is accepted. Currency exchange is available at all banks, hotels, and Exchange offices that can be found throughout city. Debit/Credit Card payments are available.

TELEPHONES

The country code for Serbia is +381

To make an international call from a Serbian phone, dial 00 followed by the country code and then phone number. Or if the call is made from a mobile phone simply dial + COUNTRY CODE and then the local number



PAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1973: Waregem BEL (March 17)
1974: Monza ITA (March 16)
1975: Rabat MAR (March 16)
1976: Chepstow WAL (February 28)
1977: Düsseldorf FRG (March 20)
1978: Glasgow SCO (March 25)
1979: Limerick IRL (March 25)
1980: Paris FRA (March 9)
1981: Madrid ESP (March 28)
1982: Rome ITA (March 21)
1983: Gateshead GBR (March 20)
1984: New York USA (March 25)
1985: Lisbon POR (March 24)
1986: Neuchâtel SUI (March 23)
1987: Warsaw POL (March 22)
1988: Auckland NZL (March 26)
1989: Stavanger NOR (March 19)
1990: Aix-les-Bains FRA (March 25)
1991: Antwerp BEL (March 24)
1992: Boston USA (March 21)
1993: Amorebieta ESP (March 23)
1994: Budapest HUN (March 26)
1995: Durham GBR (March 25)
1996: Cape Town RSA (March 23)
1997: Turin ITA (March 23)
1998: Marrakech MAR (March 21/22)
1999: Belfast GBR (March 27/28)
2000: Vilamoura POR (March 18/19)
2001: Ostend BEL (March 24/25)
2002: Dublin IRL (March 23/24)
2003: Lausanne SUI (March 29/30)
2004: Brussels BEL (March 20/21)
2005: St Galmier FRA (March 19/20)
2006: Fukuoka JPN (April 1/2)
2007: Mombasa KEN (March 24)
2008: Edinburgh GBR (March 30)
2009: Amman JOR (March 28)
2010: Bydgoszcz POL (March 28)
2011: Punta Umbría ESP (March 20)
2013: Bydgoszcz POL (March 24)
2015: Guiyang CHN (March 28)
2017: Kampala UGA (March 26)
2019: Aarhus DEN (March 30)
2023: Bathurst AUS (Feb 18)
2024: BELGRADE SRB (March 30)



**WORLD ATHLETICS
CROSS COUNTRY
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BELGRADE 24**

WORLD ATHLETICS PARTNERS



WORLD ATHLETICS MEDIA PARTNER



WORLD ATHLETICS SUPPORTER



WORLD ATHLETICS SUPPLIERS



@WorldAthletics