



## 48<sup>TH</sup> INTER-AGENCY GAMES Vila Real Santo Antonio 2023

### INVITATION – PARTICIPANTS

18-22 October 2023

#### Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Arrival.....	2
3. Accommodation.....	3
3.1 Standard Package:.....	3
3.2 Premium Package (very limited): .....	3
3.3 Golf Package.....	3
3.4 No-Hotel Package.....	3
4. Opening – UN Beach Party and Opening Ceremony.....	4
5. Sports .....	4
5.1 Teams and Athletes.....	4
5.2 Disciplines .....	4
5.3 Venues.....	5
5.4 Eligibility to participate .....	5
5.5 Medical certificates.....	5
6. How to register .....	5
6.1 Entry visas (VERY IMPORTANT).....	6
6.2 Deadlines for Registration and Cancellation.....	6
6.3 Official ID.....	6
7. For any other questions .....	6

#### 1. Introduction

Dear friends and colleagues,

This year's Inter-Agency Games (IAG) marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. Ever since its inauguration in 1968 it has been a career highlight for thousands of colleagues and one of the most memorable opportunities to network with colleagues from around the world and compete against each other in their favorite sports discipline through friendly competition. With this in mind we set out to plan an event that would celebrate sporting excellence in an environment that allows us to disconnect from the stresses of everyday office life, but also connect to our colleagues and friends from around the globe.

Our aim was to plan the ultimate autumn get-away for sports enthusiasts and regular participants of the Games. We understood that our initial announcement missed the mark in what you expected from us. We must give tremendous thanks to the network of focal points, coordinators, and registrars for providing us with the feedback we needed to go back to the drawing board and redesign and renegotiate the participation package in a way that we are now confident will meet your expectations of a fantastic event. After reviewing every process and service and forging new partnerships, we are excited to share our new invitation with you!

Hosted by the Vienna-based Organizations

UNIDO · IAEA · UNOV/UNODC · CTBTO

## Our Destination – Algarve, Portugal

The 48<sup>th</sup> Inter-Agency Games will be held from **18-22 October 2023** in the Algarve region of Portugal. Our hosting location is the city and municipality of [Vila Real de Santo Antonio](#) (VRSA) and the event will be held under the patronage of the mayor himself. The city celebrates sport, being host to major events all year around and being the destination of choice for many sports federations. The "the excellence" of the VRSA High Performance Center and sport facilities have recently been recognized by the Olympic Committee of Portugal and the city is working towards becoming the country's capital of sport and champions.

The majority of this year's designated hotels are located in the adjacent village of Monte Gordo (3km away). Monte Gordo is part of VRSA and located directly on the beach. It boasts amazing restaurants, sea front and activities. It is a perfect location for our UN family to congregate and enjoy a fabulous time together.

The Algarve region itself sits amongst some of the most beautiful and well-visited beach locations in Europe. The southern coastline of Portugal is blessed with picture-perfect sandy beaches, picturesque fishing towns and a fabulous climate, all of which combine to create the perfect holiday destination. In October we can expect moderate temperatures with little to no chance of rain, perfect for any sports tournament. Outside of competitions the region offers pristine beaches, waterparks for thrill-seekers, buzzing nightlife for partying, and historic towns for cultural enlightenment.

The Algarve is a hassle-free destination that is very safe and provides high standards in hospitality. English is widely spoken, and the Portuguese are unbelievably welcoming and hospitable. As well as being an outstanding destination, the Algarve is also one of the least expensive destinations in Europe, ensuring that food, beverage and other incidentals are affordable, and the overall cost of your stay will be reasonable.

The Participation Package – What you can expect from joining the 48<sup>th</sup> IAG:

### 2. Arrival

#### [Faro Airport – Free Shuttles](#)

The main arrival airport was designated as Faro (FAO). Faro is easily available from all major airports around the world and is a popular destination for budget airlines such as Ryan Air, Easy Jet, Wizz Air, and Transavia. By choosing this location participants will be able to book flights that offer good value for money.

Shuttle buses will be available to all participants to transfer you to Monte Gordo or VRSA depending on your hotel location. We understand that the best flight deals are not necessarily available on the opening and closing days of the event. This is why **shuttle buses will be available three days prior to and after the event!** We have also negotiated the best extra night rates, not available anywhere else!

Availability of shuttle buses: 16, 17, 18 October, as well as 22, 23, 24 October.

Taxi and Uber are also available for around EUR 50.

Hire cars are generally available for a good price and for IAG participants discounts are available for both Avis and Europcar. The code will be made available on the website soon.

An IAG Welcome Desk will also be there to assist the arrivals.

## Seville

The Spanish town of Seville is approximately two hours away. Participants arriving in Seville are recommended to consider hiring a car to get to their final destination as public connections are limited.

## Lisbon

Portugal's capital city is approximately three hours away. We recommend participants arriving at Lisbon Airport to hire a car, but public options are available.

Participants can look into [trains](#) going to VRSA directly or to Faro and then getting one of our shuttles. Many bus options are also available (Rede Express, Flix bus, etc.)

## 3. Accommodation

All participation packages include a generous welcome package with goodies and information. They will also include transportation to and from Faro Airport, to and from all official events, and to and from sports venues.

All hotels are partners with our local project implementers and are used to hosting athletes and their needs. Extra staff will be on hand to ensure a welcome stay.

Participants have four options. The costs are itemized in Annex I - Pricing.

### 3.1 Standard Package:

Accommodation in 3-Star Hotel with breakfast. All hotels have the same standard and rooms are almost indistinguishable from each other and feature the same standards. Participants choosing this option will be accommodated with other participants of their discipline. All hotels in Monte Gordo are within walking distance.

### 3.2 Premium Package (very limited):

Against a slight premium, participants can opt for either a four-star hotel which is located in Monte Gordo city center, or a three-star superior hotel which is located on the beach front with its own private beach, spa, separated adult and family pools, and many other amenities.

### 3.3 Golf Package

Golfers will need to opt for the exclusive golf package. This event will be held at the prestigious Castro Marim Golfe & Country Club. Participants will have rooms in private villas. All rooms have ensuite bathrooms and feature all the amenities of a premium hotel experience. Against a fee, participants can upgrade to a private villa, if needed.

We also highly encourage golfers to hire rental cars. The Algarve is one of the most premier golfing destinations in the world. This trip is the ideal opportunity to explore new golf courses along the southern coast of Portugal and Spain. We can provide additional information on golf courses and ask for potential discounts. A dedicated Golf page will be available on the website and the comment section can be used to coordinate amongst teams.

### 3.4 No-Hotel Package

To avail yourself of apartment options, private accommodation, or any other arrangements that you find for yourself, you will be able to book a no-hotel option, just like in previous years.

Please note however that shuttle services will only be possible from a central pick-up point. Luckily, everything in Monte Gordo is walking distance.

#### 4. Opening – UN Beach Party and Opening Ceremony

The opening event will be held on Wednesday (18 October 2023) evening from 1800h on Monte Gordo Beach. It will be our first opportunity to meet, greet and feast. Food, refreshments, music, and good vibes will be available.

The ceremony itself will start around 1900h.

**Attention Team Captains:** The Captain’s Meeting will be held in walking distance in the Hotel Navegadores at 1700h! You will receive more info soon, provided you register as a Team Captain.

#### 5. Sports

As is tradition, competitions will be held from Thursday to Saturday, 19-21 October 2023.

##### 5.1 Teams and Athletes

Participants are invited to form teams but individuals wishing to participate will also be accommodated. There are no restrictions on the number of teams per discipline submitted for participation by any organization. However, the host reserves the right to limit team numbers if hosting limitations arise. In accordance with the [General Rules](#) of the Games, mixed teams are permitted but they should not be created to form a “stronger” team. Individuals not registered in a team will also be placed in such mixed teams. We highly encourage organizations to form complete teams.

##### 5.4 Disciplines

This year we invite organizations to form teams, or send athletes to compete in the following disciplines (required team numbers included):

1. Athletics men: minimum 4 – maximum 6
2. Athletics women: minimum 4 – maximum 6
3. Badminton: minimum 3 men and 1 woman-or 2 men and 2 women, maximum of 5 men and 3 women
4. Basketball: maximum 12 players, females are encouraged to participate
5. Beach volleyball: teams are composed exclusively of 2 players, either men, women, or a mixed couple
6. Chess: minimum 5 – maximum 6 players
7. Cricket: minimum of 6
8. Darts: minimum 6 – maximum 8 players
9. Football men: minimum 7 – maximum 12
10. Football women: minimum 7 – maximum 12
11. Golf: minimum 4 – maximum 6
12. Padel Tennis: Teams of 2
13. Pétanque: 3 per triplet plus maximum 2 reserves
14. Pool Billiards: Teams of 2. Discipline still to be confirmed, based on interest.
15. Swimming men: minimum 4 – maximum 5
16. Swimming women: minimum 4 – maximum 5
17. Table Tennis men: minimum 3 – maximum 5
18. Table Tennis women: minimum 2 – maximum 3
19. Tennis: 10 per team (5 men and 5 women)
20. Volleyball men: 10 players per team
21. Volleyball women: 10 players per team

### 5.3 Venues

The competitions are the true reason we embark on this journey every year. That is why we have not compromised on the quality of the any of the facilities of any discipline. All competitions will be held at the highest amateur level, and the most appropriate facility available at the host location.

Bus shuttles will be available to all locations.

The majority of events will be held in [Complexo Desportivo de VRSA](#).

Golf will be held at the [Castro Marim Golfe & Country Club](#).

Darts will be held in the Apolo Lounge in VRSA. The darts hotel (Hotel Apolo) is located opposite this venue. It is approximately 5-10 minutes' walk from the sports center.

Basketball will be held in Pavilhao Desportivo de Vila Nova de Cacela while Volleyball will take place in Pavilhao Desportivo Municipal Dr Eduardo Mansinho (Tavira)

### 5.4 Eligibility to participate

*In accordance with General Rule 14, any person of a participating organization or agency who has served under contract, including supernumeraries (consultants and other contractors that are verified by your respective HR department), for at least three months or who holds a contract of at least three months duration and, in either case, holds a contract effective at least one month before the IAG open and during their entire duration, is eligible for selection as a member of a team. Any person who has retired from any participating organization or agency is also eligible to participate in the UNIAG.*

Participating organizations/agencies must normally be listed on the United Nations System document [www.unsystem.org](http://www.unsystem.org) or if not listed therein then have the approval of the Secretariat to participate. Such approval shall depend on any such organization having joint missions with the UN (see General Rule 6).

If you are unsure whether you or your organization is eligible, please direct your inquiries to [secretariat@interagencygames.org](mailto:secretariat@interagencygames.org)

### 5.5 Medical certificates

Although medical certificates are not mandatory in Portugal it is recommended that, for their own safety, participants consult with their general practitioner before engaging in any sporting activity. Please be mindful that competitions are held at the amateur level and span multiple days. Participants and supporters are responsible for their own medical insurance. The host organizations will not be held liable.

## 6. Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony and Gala Night where all trophies will be presented to Winners of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be held in the exclusive Lake Side Venue of Tivoli Hotel & Resort in Vila Moura. The event will take place from 1800h on Saturday, 21 October 2023. Shuttle buses will leave the hotels around 1700h and will return participants after the event.

Vila Moura is the Algarve's most exclusive location and features some of the best marinas, restaurants and resorts. That is why you will also have the opportunity to leave for Vila Moura early (after the last competition on Saturday) to explore the town. Pre-registration will be required.

For those interested in the Algarve's famous night life, late night buses at 4am and 6am will be available for those wanting to explore the best clubs of the region which are all in Vila Moura. No one will be left behind as long as you register for the late bus.

## 7. How to register

Registration is possible through each participating organization's focal point. They will generally be the person or office that has shared this invitation.

Please make sure to provide accurate information, especially on arrival and departure as we need this information to coordinate transportation.

Your focal point will tell you more.

### 7.1 Entry visas (VERY IMPORTANT)

Kindly ensure that you have the necessary visas for Portugal (and any countries you might need to travel through) and that they apply as early as possible to ensure that the visa is available on time. We would recommend immediate action to ensure visa availability. Invitation letters can be provided to facilitate visa requests. Full details of all travelers will be required, therefore please send us a copy of your passport.

There will be no reimbursement for no-show due to visa-related problems.

Please direct your requests for personalized visa letter invitations to:

[iag2023@interagencygames.org](mailto:iag2023@interagencygames.org)

### 7.2 Deadlines for Registration and Cancellation

Full reimbursement of the IAG package cost will only be possible for cancellations up to Friday, 15 September 2023. We reserve the right to assess refunds for cancellations after that date on a case-by-case basis.

Our global registration deadline is also set around mid to end September. However, the exact dates for payment, registration and cancellation will be set by your organization's focal point.

### 7.3 Official ID

We would like to remind you to have official picture identification with you in case we need to verify your identity before or during a competition.

## 8. For any other questions

If you have specific questions should contact Steven Eales, Chair 2023 IAG Organizing Committee under:

[iag2023@interagencygames.org](mailto:iag2023@interagencygames.org)

Please also regularly check our website:

[www.interagencygames.org](http://www.interagencygames.org)

and follow us on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNInterAgencyGames>

And

Instagram: @uninteragencygames

---

On behalf of the team

Steven Eales

*Chair, IAG Organizing Committee 2023*