Recognised by the International Olympic Committee as a multi-sports organisation

World Transplant Games Federation

Powered by the gift of Life.
Promoting Donation on a Global Scale

The World Transplant Games Federation promotes the power of the gift of life through the staging of the world’s largest event for the success of transplantation – the World Summer Transplant Games.

The Games unite more than 60 countries in the celebration of the gift of life and cast a spotlight on the need for more organ donors.

Transplantation – the start of another journey

The World Transplant Games Federation understands that transplant recipients have ongoing challenges. A transplant is not a cure in its own right but a chance to start again.

The Federation promotes the full rehabilitation and wellbeing of recipients through healthy lifestyle achieved through exercise and sport. Our Fit for Life initiative is designed to provide recipients with a simple step-by-step guide to a life of activity and sport while also creating an environment where physical activity is the ‘norm’ post transplant.

Who we are?

- Not-for-profit international organisation
- Founded in 1978
- More than 60 member countries
- Run by an elected body – the Council, comprising the President, General Secretary, Treasurer and a maximum of ten Councillors from all over the world, all serving on a voluntary basis
- Promoting ethical organ donation and transplantation and supporting living and deceased organ donation by consenting persons and their families.
- Recognised internationally by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Our Purpose

- Significantly enhance the understanding and acceptance of organ donation,
- To increase public awareness of transplantation success and thereby increase organ donation rates.
- Promote the full rehabilitation and wellbeing of our participants through healthy lifestyle achieved through exercise and sport.
- To encourage and support medical research into the benefits of sport post transplant.
- To highlight the importance of physical activity and organised sport in the long term management and well-being of transplant recipients.

WTGF Initiatives

1. The Summer World Transplant Games
2. The Winter World Transplant Games
3. Fit For Life (Medical Research, Conferences and Physical Well-being education)
4. Communication (Website, Transplant World Journal, Networking)

Through these initiatives we are able to achieve our goals and ensure that our purpose remains at the forefront of everything we do.

The global need for more organ donors

All around the world, there are thousands of people alive today, unified by a common bond. Some owe their lives to living donors, who are family members or friends…others owe their lives to the generosity of perfect strangers, organ and tissue donors driven by the desire to give life to others after their death.

The need for an urgent or life-saving transplant knows no boundaries – it affects people regardless of their gender, age, religion or ethnicity. Hundreds of thousands of people all across the Globe are currently waiting for a life-saving transplant. Their only hope is that someone will give them that chance through the ultimate gift – the gift of life.
Imagine the devastating news that only an organ transplant would save your life. And then imagine the joy of receiving that transplant coupled with the understanding that you are alive thanks to someone who was less fortunate than you, has saved your life by being an organ donor after their death.

Transplantation is life-changing.

Our goal is to help more recipients worldwide to use their love of sport to celebrate that second chance.

The Summer World Transplant Games
Represents the largest organ donor awareness event in the world

- Our prestige event held every two years
- For athletes aged of 4 to 80+ years
- Individuals who have undergone either solid organ or bone marrow life saving transplants.
- Comprises of seven days of competition for a number of sports ranging from low impact through to high exertion.
- Attracts close to 2500 participants made up of athletes, medical professionals, donor families, living donors and supporters
- Represents over 60 different nations.
- The level of competition ranges from elite athletes to social athletes, promoting the benefits of sport at all levels.
- Core Sports at the Games include Athletics, Swimming, Golf, Road Race, Cycling, Badminton, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Petanque, Tennis, Squash, Tenpin Bowling, darts and basketball with options to include additional sports such as paddle tennis, lawn bowls, kayaking, archery or 3 on 3 basketball.
- Cultural celebrations including an opening ceremony, cultural evening, closing ceremony, donor recognition events and a gala dinner.
- Constantly growing event with the first Games being hosted in 1978 in Portsmouth and consisting of 99 athletes representing 5 nations. Today the Games represent more than 60 nations.

The next Games (21st edition) will be staged in Malaga, Spain in June 2017, previous host countries include:

- 1978 UK - Portsmouth
- 1997 Australia - Sydney
- 1995 UK - Manchester
- 1993 Canada - Vancouver
- 1991 Hungary - Budapest
- 1989 Singapore
- 1987 Austria - Innsbruck
- 1984 Holland - Amsterdam
- 1982 Greece - Athens
- 1980 USA - New York
- 1979 UK - Portsmouth
- 1978 UK - Portsmouth

The Winter World Transplant Games

The Winter Games were first held in Tignes France in 1994 and take place in the intervening years of the Summer Games, providing an opportunity for athletes to compete on the ski slopes. The Games are held at a dedicated ski resort and attract smaller numbers, involving 12 sporting disciplines over 6 days. The next Winter Games will take place in 2018.

Previous host countries are shown below.

- 2014 France - La Chapelle d’Abondance
- 2012 Switzerland - Anzere
- 2010 France - Sainte Foy, Tarentaise
- 2008 Finland - Rovaniemi
- 2005 Poland - Zakopane (Nicholas Cup)
- 2004 Italy - Bormio
- 2001 Switzerland - Nendaz
- 1999 USA - Snowbird, Utah
- 1996 France - Pra Loup
- 1994 France - Tignes

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Fit for Life is a campaign led by the Federation with a goal to elevate the importance of physical activity and organised sport in the long-term management and well-being of transplant recipients. The WTGF has a mission to assist all recipients to rehabilitate and focus on their fitness, health, and well-being. This is achieved through various platforms which include the hosting of our Summer and Winter World Games, medical conferences, research studies, promotion, training programmes, nutrition advice, and social challenges.

Medical Conferences
Attendance and participation at various worldwide medical and transplantation conferences, allow us to promote the Federation, our Games and the Fit for Life campaign.

Medical & Transplantation Research
As a Federation we support and lead various research initiatives and surveys. Research around the topic of physical activity post transplant remains a key topic for many medical professionals, and documenting of this research is a vital outcome. The Federation constantly looks at opportunities to contribute with the awarding of Fit For Life scholarships and undertaking of surveys.

Healthy Lifestyle Programs
Utilising our marketing platforms and strong access to the transplant community, we aim to equip all recipients with literature in the form of suggested sports programs and healthy lifestyle plans to assist them in their rehabilitation post transplant. A Fit for Life app keeps the transplant community up to date with new sporting initiatives and interactive elements leading and encouraging them towards the next world Games. Fitness programs such as the “couch to 5km program” encourage new recipients to get active and a Fit for Life web portal brings together everything related to sport and physical activity post transplant in one convenient and dedicated platform.

Fit for Life Initiative Benefits
The Fit for Life initiative is designed to help transition recipients from a life of sedentary and protective behavior immediately post-transplant to a full and active life centered on physical activity and organized sport.

TransplantWorld Journal
Produced twice a year with thousands of copies distributed to member countries, transplant centers, government departments, and the medical profession. Viewed as a very valuable journal in the transplant community with articles and studies by esteemed transplant related professionals.

Our mantra: more transplant recipients, more active, more often

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