



Protocol for Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Opening and Closing Ceremony Procedures inform Competition Hosts how to organize the Ceremonies and show the part the Teams play. Organizers should discuss and agree the draft of their event's Opening and Closing ceremonies with the Senior ESF Official present. There can be too much of a good thing: Don't let the Ceremonies go on too long.

Opening Ceremony Procedure

- Honour Party at Plate: Master of Ceremonies introduces all.
- Teams enter announced alphabetically except for Home team, who enter as last team and always line up at second base (one after another continuously: no gaps: wastes time).
 - Options: Lead by local junior players, with national flag / board
 - Euro Anthem 'Ode To Joy'.
- Teams enter announced alphabetically except for Home team, who enter as last team.
- Line up, starting at third base and around second towards first, equal spacing, but leaving gap at second for host team.
- Umpires enter after Home team, on the double, along first or third baseline.
- Home national anthem. All teams face flags on display. (*see notes*)
- Welcome from Home Club / Federation.
- Welcome from Home Mayor / Sponsor.
- Senior ESF declares 'GAMES OPEN'
 - Options: Athletes' Oath: home Captain in local language, visiting in English. (*see appendix*)
 - Umpires' Oath by representative of Officials, in English. (*see appendix*)
- First game follows, Host team Home. Both anthems played.

Closing Ceremony Procedure

- Honour Party at Plate: Master of Ceremonies introduces all.
- The three Medal teams only enter announced in order third, second, first. Gold medal team line up starting at pitcher's plate, silver on third base side, bronze on first base side.
 - Options: Lead by local junior players, with national flag / board
 - Euro Anthem 'Ode To Joy'.
- Local / Sponsor speeches. (*see notes*)
- ESF thanks umpires, spectators, TEAMS, Organisers (**Gives ESF Award**),
 - Agree sequence of thanks so all are acknowledged: Volunteers, Red Cross, Local & Municipal Sponsors, ground staff (*see notes*)

Awards presentations

- Bronze: Cup & ESF medals – By local sponsor + UiC ESF.
 - Captain's photo only: team return direct to places: photos later. (*see notes*)
- Silver: Cup & ESF medals – By local sponsor + TC ESF.
 - Captain's photo only: team return direct to places: photos later. (*see notes*)
- Gold: Cup + ESF medals – By National Federation President + Senior ESF Official.
- Anthem winning team: Senior ESF declares 'GAMES CLOSED'.
- ALL team photos AFTER ceremony.
- As fireworks, balloons, etc, other teams can return to field for photos from families etc,

Notes

- Translations
 - Local and English.
 - Preparing your speech and giving to translator in advance really helps them.
 - Saying everything twice takes time, and attracts two lots of applause!
- Anthems
 - Available on ESF website for download.
 - Check timings & correct tune: insulting to play wrong version.
 - Decide when and how often used: at European Championships must be played prior to each game.
 - DO NOT play while teams are marching!
 - Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', the 'European Anthem' is a great tune for all teams to march to as they enter arena.
- Awards
 - PHOTOGRAPHERS: Only let families / friends onto field AFTER presentations.
- Involving local contributions
 - Sponsors can be given chance to speak.
 - Municipal & Regional / National Federation / IOC members may attend.
 - If available, local Diplomatic staff from participating nations' Embassies.

Appendix

- Words for Athletes' Oath:
 - "In the name of all competitors, I promise we shall take part in these Games, abiding by the rules which govern them, respecting Olympic ideals and committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the spirit of true sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams."
- Words for Umpires' Oath:
 - "In the name of all the judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Games with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship."