



*Haz deporte con nosotros
solo faltas tú*



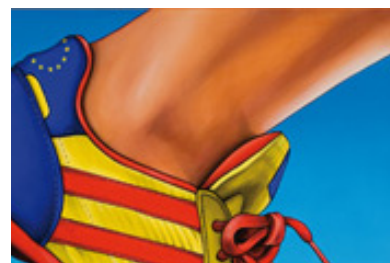
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ACES Spain is constituted within the framework of Valencia 2011 and will have its headquarters in our city

On the 2nd March Valencia was the site of an historic event; the foundation of ACES España. With this, the European Capital of Sports Association has consolidated itself and continues to expand, following the opening of new headquarters in the United Kingdom and Italy.

This year, the national headquarters will be in Valencia, and the founding ceremony was attended by the mayors of all the Spanish towns and cities that have been awarded a title by ACES at some point; more than a dozen in total. The guests also included the Director General for Sports from Istanbul and the entire Executive Committee of ACES.

This event is a precursor to the one that will be held on the 31st March at La Petxina Sports and Cultural Centre, as part of the 1st International Conference on Sports Infrastructure, when Cardiff will be named European Capital of Sports 2014.



Valencia, European Capital of Sport

What does it mean to be European Capital of Sport?

The European Capital of Sport Association (ACES) aims to maintain the Olympic tradition and to spread the universal values of the Olympic movement at the municipal level, encouraging the habit of enjoying exercise, a commitment to achievement, a sense of community, fair play and improvement to health across society.

Who awards this distinction?

The award is given by ACES, a not-for-profit association created in 1999 in Milan (Italy). Its activities are based on the European Capitals of Sport Manifesto and the organization is included in the European White Paper on Sport.

What criteria are followed when deciding the European Capital of Sport?

The fundamental goal of ACES is to promote the universal values of the Olympic movement at the municipal level. Just as the Olympic rings are interlinked, so are the five objectives of the member cities of ACES:

- Enjoyment of exercise
- Commitment to achievement
- Sense of community
- Fair play
- Improvement to health

The assessment takes into account the efforts made in the area of physical/sports activities and the culture of sport over the last three years.

These include, among other factors:

1. Continued promotion of sport.
2. Improvement to health through sport in every section of the population.
3. Integration of different population groups through sport.
4. Development of infrastructure for sport.
5. Implementation of innovative projects.
6. Organization of significant sports events and competitions.

What does the ACES award mean?

Firstly, it is a form of recognition of the work done by Valencia City Council in the area of sport. With this award, Valencia now forms part of the Network of European Capitals of Sport, along with the major capital cities of Europe. This distinction is also a guarantee that the city of Valencia is reinforcing its work in the area of sport, following European criteria.

Secondly, winning this award means that Valencia will become a focal point for research, innovation and promotion of municipal sport at a European level. This work will be undertaken jointly by the Network of European Capitals of Sport and Valencia City Council through its Municipal Sport Foundation.

Also, Valencia, as European Capital of Sport, is working to create the European Council of Cultural and Sport Research, under the supervision of ACES, with a permanent headquarters in Valencia and a moving presidency.



Winning cities

The cities that have won to date are:

2001 Madrid
2002 Stockholm
2003 Alicante
2004 Glasgow
2005 Rotterdam
2006 Copenhagen
2007 Stuttgart
2008 Warsaw
2009 Milan
2010 Dublin
2011 Valencia
2012 Istanbul
2013 Antwerp

The strong points in Valencia's candidature

Valencia received this international distinction on the basis of several merits, including:

- **Planning as a guide for action**

Based on empirical research commissioned to independent institutes such as the University of Valencia, the Centre of Sociological Research and the Higher Council for Sport, we provide the city of Valencia with what its residents want: training on values, healthy sport habits, etc.

These objectives have been achieved with the help of three technical documents that have governed the implementation of Valencia's sports policy: Master Plan – What activities we do; Directive Plan – Where we do them; and the Management Plan – How we do them. Since 2010 these goals have come under the Valencia Sport Strategy Plan.

- **Practice sport with us**

Our model for encouraging everyone to play sport is through participative sports schemes. They cover every age group and background. Children, young people, adults, the elderly, people with disabilities... Everyone practices sport with us.

Facilities for everyone:

112 sports facilities across the city.

1,596,857 m2 of ground for sport.

For the 2009-2011 period, approved investment of 42,000,000 € for the building and refurbishment of public sports facilities.

The lack of public sports facilities is no reason for Valencians not to play sport.

The big sporting event; promoting sport for all

Our efforts to bring major championships, tournaments and sporting events to the city aim to give the public access to spectator sports and to create a "sporty environment".

As an example, the America's Cup has led to the creation of the Sailing School; the XII World Athletics Championship Valencia 2008 generated the "Education Guide for the Teaching of Athletics"...

Valencia promotes working for Europe

Valencia is proposing the creation of a European Council of Cultural and Sport Research under the supervision of ACES, with a permanent headquarters and secretariat in Valencia. It will have a moving presidency that shall fall to the city that is chosen to be European Capital of Sport for that year.

European Centre for Research into Municipal Sport

A forum for research in the various fields of knowledge applied to municipal sport, under the supervision of ACES, headquartered in Valencia and with a moving presidency. Valencia City Council is working on this proposal through its Municipal Sport Foundation: it represents the greatest legacy to the city once Valencia's year as European Capital of Sport is over.

The world's best sports facility architects to meet at an International Conference in Valencia in March

As part of Valencia's year as European Capital of Sport, the decision was taken to hold a conference focusing on sports facilities, for the first time ever. This meeting will be held from Thursday 31st March to Saturday 2nd April and will look at major architecture projects in the sports world and what impact these sports facilities have on their cities. The conference will take place at La Petxina Sports and Arts Complex in Valencia and their purpose is to spark off debate about the link between the design, the building and the management of a major sports facility.



The speakers at the conference are all internationally renowned professionals in the field of sports facilities. They include the keynote speaker Alistair Lencner, an engineer at Foster and Partners and Mamoru Kawaguchi, a prestigious Japanese engineer and inventor of the "Pantadome" system that has been applied in the most important sports structures, such as the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona. Another of the speakers is Gonzalo Vicente-Almazán from Alicante, who refurbished and redeveloped the Naves de Cross factory to turn it into a public sports complex, the future Juan Antonio Samaranch sports centre in Valencia. Another guest speaker is Tom Jones, who designed Arsenal's stadium in London. Andrew Comer, a renowned civil engineer known for creating facilities that are environmentally sustainable, has also confirmed his attendance and will speak on his current projects for the London Olympics.

In parallel to the Conference, there will be an exhibition of models. These prototypes are linked to the speakers' projects and will be used to support their presentations. However, some freely presented models will also be selected for exhibition. Any delegates who are interested will also have the opportunity to take a guided tour of Valencia's sports facilities.

Valencia 2011 takes a star role once again during the Fallas, in the monument on Plaza del Ayuntamiento

In 2011, the falla at the Plaza del Ayuntamiento will be dedicated to the world of sport to celebrate Valencia being named European Capital of Sport for this year. The falla artist Pere Baenas presents “Valencia 2011, sport all year”, which looks at Valencia as a place in which traditional sports such as tiro y arrastre (horse and cart dragging) and Valencian pelota (a local form of handball) live alongside major events such as the America’s Cup, the world motorcycling championship and Formula 1.

The finishing touch on this falla is a Valencian athlete crossing the finishing line with arms raised in a “V” for victory and for Valencia, bursting with pride at his triumph; the triumph of his city and his people, who have learned to adapt to the modern age as a global focal point for sport.

A Formula 1 car speeds around the modern urban circuit at the centre of the falla, sharing pride of place with two of our home-grown sports; tiro y arrastre and pelota valenciana. The ancient and the modern come together and live in perfect harmony in Valencia.

Two-wheeled sports like motorcycling and cycling, public favourites such as basketball, football, handball, etc., are also represented. Athletics is also caricatured in this falla, as is the beautiful artistic expression of rhythmic gymnastics.

Making the most of all our natural spaces, we find water sports (sailing and others) and activities in the former bed of the River Turia, redeveloped as a sports area for all Valencians. A wide open space in which to enjoy the open air, sport and nature.

Eight scenes make up this monument with 40 figures: “Open air sports”, “Family sports”, “Sports on wheels”, “Caricature of athletics”, “Sports on the sea”, “Orange Derby” (with a match between Levante U.D and Valencia F.C.) and “The world of gymnastics”.

For Pere Baenas it will be his fourth falla for the city council, having already put his work on this site in 2002, 2004 and 2007.

The Fallas are a festival with a tradition that is deeply rooted in the city of Valencia. The festival has now become a major tourist attraction. Its origins are actually very simple; nothing more than a bonfire to burn the waste from a carpentry shop. But Valencians have been ingenious enough to forge a great festival out of it, an expression of all the elements of their culture and history.

One might say that the Fallas are the city’s own carnival, where satire and cheekiness take the shape of the fallas monuments made out of papier-mâché so that, as they burn, it is thought that one is burning away problems and evil. The fiesta also brings together several aspects that define a culture: fire, music, firecrackers and the street (source: Wikipedia).



The world's best show-jumping, once again at the City of Arts and Sciences in May

Valencia is to be the Spanish host city of the Global Champions Tour for the third year running. The city is already working on the upcoming event and hopes to hold the best competition in this show-jumping tour which has the most prize money of any equestrian tournament in the world and is made up of several show-jumping competitions at the highest international level held exclusively in nine iconic cities around the world. The world's best horse riders take part in this tournament, with celebrities like Cayetano Martínez de Irujo, Charlotte Casiraghi and Athina de Miranda Onassis. It is followed by 500 journalists from all over the world and broadcast in more than 60 countries.



More than 56,000 people attended the Global Champions Tour last year at the City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia. In 2010, the city of Valencia really consolidated its position on the international show-jumping calendar, having attracted a total of 90 riders, including the 30 top equestrians in the world. Considered the Formula 1 of show-jumping, the Global Champions Tour chose Valencia to hold its Grand Prix of Spain-Banc Sabadell Tournament, the first points-scoring event in the 2010 tour.

In the end, French rider Timothee Anciaume, riding 'Lamm de Fetan', was crowned champion. Marcus Ehning of Germany and Jos Lansink of Belgium took second and third place on the podium.

More than 16,000 spectators enjoyed this first three-day trial in the official calendar, which was broadcast in 60 countries all over the world and was attended by more than 300 accredited journalists.

Another 40,000 visitors came to the Jardín del Caballo, situated on the former bed of the River Turia, where they could get direct experience of the equestrian world through different educational and fun activities.

Amateur sports photographers have an opportunity to display their work with support from the Municipal Sport Foundation

To celebrate Valencia's year as European Capital of Sport 2011, the Municipal Sport Foundation and the EFE news agency would like to award prizes for photographs taken by the public that best reflect the spirit of Valencian popular sports, by organizing a public photography competition. The photographs must emphasize the spirit of solidarity, cooperation and the valuing of effort involved in practicing different forms of sport, both amateur and professional, and how this shows through in the city of Valencia.

Any amateur photographer of any nationality who resides in the Valencian Autonomous Community can take part. The deadline for sending in pictures is the 23rd March of this year.

The chosen photographs will be exhibited on the 5th floor of the El Corte Inglés store on "Pintor Sorolla," coinciding with the photography exhibition "40 years of sport in Valencia". Members of the public attending the exhibition will be able to vote for one of these selected photographs in the Public's Prize category. A qualified jury will also choose the three photographs that best illustrate the spirit of the competition and one thousand euros in prize money will be distributed.

