



#6 – Hippocrate

Nacer Zorgani: Hi, it's Nacer Zorgani, I work at Paris 2024 in the volunteers programme, what is the volunteers programme? What do volunteers do, what are their roles, what are their missions? To answer these questions, to talk about the programme, to talk about the volunteer experience, join me with those who have done, are doing and will do the Games. Welcome to the uniform of a volunteer.

Jingle (Introductory music)

Nacer Zorgani: As we are used to saying here in Paris 2024, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are a celebration of sport! We celebrate the athletes and their performances. But performance sometimes means a painful and difficult moment in the life of an athlete: injury, we are going to talk about it because during the Games, there are also medical services volunteers. With us to describe all this, Philippe Le Van, director of medical services for Paris 2024. Adjouavi Deguenon, head of medical services. But also the main people involved, two athletes, and what athletes! Two former flag bearers of Tokyo 2020, respectively judo champion and gymnastics champion, Sandrine Martinet, Samir Ait Saïd... Hello everyone!

In heart: Hello!

Nacer Zorgani: So Adjouavi, let me start with you, what is your role at Paris 2024 and what is your link with the volunteers?

Adjouavi Deguenon: I am a project lead in the medical services of Paris 2024, I oversee the medicalisation of the athletes and I have had the opportunity to participate in several humanitarian missions, both as a trainer and as a nurse around the world.

Nacer Zorgani: Going back to what Adjouavi just said, Philippe, can you explain to us what medicalisation is and, by the way, what you do at Paris 2024 and what is your link with the Games?

Philippe Le Van: So my link with the Games is that I have been to all the Summer Games since 1992 and I am a doctor at INSEP. Medicalisation consists of providing care plans for all the people who are going to be at the Games, the athletes of course, but also the spectators, the dignitaries, and the volunteers as well. And for that, we will use a polyclinic that will allow us to take care of the athletes and their entourage.

Nacer Zorgani: A wealth of experience, Philippe, indeed! And today, you are even the boss of the medical services of the Games to complete the circle! But more precisely, Adjouavi, can you tell us about the missions and disciplines carried out by the future medical volunteers?

Adjouavi Deguenon: So they are very diverse and varied, there are a few for all the health professionals, medical and paramedical, nurses, physiotherapists, chiropodists, emergency doctors. In addition, there is a whole chain of care, so there are also missions for logisticians and assistant regulators who will enable the entire Paris 2024 health service to function in the best possible way. Indeed, there will be a place, a little privileged if I may say so, where we will provide care only for the athletes within the Olympic and Paralympic village, which is the polyclinic.

Nacer Zorgani: Philippe, can you explain to us what the polyclinic is?

Philippe Le Van: Precisely, it will be a health centre in the form of a clinic in which there will be services, like in a hospital.

Nacer Zorgani: Thank you Philippe and Adjouavi for giving us this first portrait of the future medical services of Paris 2024. We are now going to talk about a difficult moment for any athlete: the injury! Samir Aïd Saïd, I'll start with you, you are a gymnastics champion, let's go back to 6 August 2016, in Rio, at the Summer Games, Samir, what happened ?

Samir Aït Saïd: unfortunately I fractured my tibia, so a triple open fracture of the tibia-fibula. I had qualified just before in the final of the rings. The jump comes just after the rings series. So I qualify and maybe 10 minutes later I have the accident which deprives me of this Olympic medal, at least of this Olympic final...

Nacer Zorgani: How did you feel at that moment?

Samir Aït Saïd : To be honest, I didn't realise right away. I looked at my shin and I said to myself, no, this is a nightmare and in fact, at that moment, I looked up and I saw everyone in the stands, I saw my parents and I saw people covering their eyes. And then I think, no, this is not a nightmare. This is really reality and it's over.

Nacer Zorgani: You notice this, but actually, on the field, what happens?

Samir Aït Saïd : So I was taken care of directly on the mat for the fracture reduction, so the doctor came and put my leg straight.

Nacer Zorgani: Philippe, I turn to you, so a small question about this doctor who intervenes to reduce the fracture, was he a volunteer?

Philippe Le Van: Yes, he was a volunteer. Hence the importance in traumatic sports such as gymnastics or judo, of putting people who are used to straightening a leg, to reduce a dislocation, to be as efficient as possible.

Nacer Zorgani: And starting from Samir's example, what would be the pathway for an athlete who is injured during the Games in Paris?

Philippe Le Van: A doctor from the emergency services will take charge of the player on the field. Then, he will be evacuated or not, either he will go to the medical area where he will be seen again by a sports doctor for a check-up, or he will leave by ambulance, he will be taken care of in the athletes' reference hospital by a surgeon.

Adjouavi Deguenon: In this case, it will be a surgeon who is hired as part of his professional activity. But it is also important to know that there will be voluntary surgeons who will have an advisory opinion.

Nacer Zorgani: Samir, Philippe has just spoken to us about your care pathway, but in your head, how do those hours and minutes go?

Samir Aït Saïd: What scared me the most was that I knew the risks of this open fracture and I knew that there could be a lot of damage.

Nacer Zorgani: Despite this painful memory, what do you remember about medical volunteers and volunteers in general?

Samir Aït Saïd : I really remember this enthusiasm. There were stars in their eyes because they were living their moment and that was really encouraging!

Nacer Zorgani: Despite all the prevention possible, you can still get injured in competition. This was also your case, Sandrine, in 2012 at the London Summer Games. You arrive in the semi-finals of the Paralympic Judo tournament, you are on the mat, you are in the semi-finals and then the ground gives way under your feet, what happens?

Sandrine Martinet: In the middle of a fight, when I was leading, my ankle gave way. I have a fracture of the fibula. As a physio, I immediately knew what was going on. Then, my trainer carried me to the exit of the tatami and I was taken in charge by the medical team to be transported to a clinic where I underwent the various medical and surgical examinations and opinions.

Nacer Zorgani: Philippe, through these different testimonies, through your experience and that of our athletes today, I think I understand that in London, Rio, Tokyo or even Paris, the delegations have their own medical staff. So my question is a bit simple, why have medical volunteers?

Philippe Le Van: First of all, it's only the big countries that will have medical delegations, not all countries have a medical delegation, so they will need us.

Nacer Zorgani: Adjouavi, beyond the disciplines practiced and the specialties in terms of profiles, who exactly are we looking for?

Adjouavi Deguenon: So who are we looking for? People who are motivated, who have good stress management skills and the ability to adapt, because they will have to use their skills in an environment that is different from that of the hospital.

Nacer Zorgani: In a podcast dedicated to volunteers, supporting the press and the media, we had the pleasure of having Nelson Monfort with us, who had a sentence that really struck me. He said that the smile of volunteers should be the 6th Olympic ring. What do you think, Sandrine?

Sandrine Martinet: Well, of course the smile, the good mood, the desire of the volunteers, it's very important, it's also the image of our country... The values we want to transmit. This extraordinary moment that the Games represent is at home, so we must take advantage of it! Really, to be able to experience them from the inside is quite incredible.

Nacer Zorgani: Philippe, the programme is opening its application platform to become a volunteer in March. What would you say to those who are listening to us about your colleagues to become medical volunteers during the Games?

Philippe Le Van: It's a unique moment that multiplies everything by 100, all the sorrows are multiplied by 100, all the joys are multiplied by 100 and it's a moment that I wouldn't miss for anything in the

world and besides I'm sad, it will probably be my last Olympic Games, but it's an extraordinary moment!

Nacer Zorgani: We're coming to the end and Samir, I'll leave you with a few final words to simply make you want to go.

Samir Aït Saïd : Join us because the adventure is magnificent. An athlete needs a coach. An athlete needs staff and an athlete needs volunteers. So we are waiting for you and we will all celebrate these beautiful medals together.

Nacer Zorgani: Adjouavi, Sandrine, Philippe, Samir. Thank you very much for being with us. As for those who are listening to us. See you next March to apply and see you soon!