



Carting athletes around in a timely fashion

SPECIAL VEHICLES ARE MAKING LIFE EASY FOR ATHLETES AND VISITORS AT THE UNIVERSIADE VILLAGE



Electric-powered carts provide a convenient form of transport for athletes in the Universiade Village.

CHEN CHAO / CHINA DAILY

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SHENZHEN — They're here to use their bodies; to jump and dive and run.

Until it comes time to get across the Universiade Village. Let's face it, that place is huge.

Fortunately for athletes and visitors, a squadron of electric-powered carts is available to shuttle them around the 492,000 square meter village.

"Please wait in line to get on the cart here," said volunteer Wang Xiaoyu, who guides athletes and visitors at the main

stop. "I'm here to answer questions and escort athletes and visitors to get on the right cart, so that they won't lose their way in the Village."

At the main stop there are three pick-up signs, representing three different lines that run through the village. While lines A and B go to public areas, such as the business zone, the training center, the polyclinic and outside the living area, line C goes inside the special zone, which is open only to athletes and team officials.

The electric-powered carts, which hold 10 passengers each, are the most important vehicles in the Village.

"There is one stop about every 100 meters. And a cart comes every few minutes. So you can walk around and enjoy the beautiful sights at the Village. But if you get tired, you can always see carts coming," Wang said.

Wang said most of the volunteers working in the Village also depend on the carts.

But due to limited seats on each, one of the volunteers' unspoken rules is to assure the foreign guests board first.

Maciej Samacki, a judo contestant from Poland, took advantage.

"I was just in a hurry when a volunteer got down and let me on," said Samacki,

who said he is surprised by how friendly the volunteers are. "Without the carts, I'd definitely lose my way. And taking them has saved me a lot of time."

Samacki said he likes to get on a cart even if he doesn't have anywhere to go — just to "go for a ride and chill out".

Huang Dawei is in charge of the transportation center, which dispatches the shuttle buses between the Village and different venues.

"If athletes miss a cart, there will be another one coming soon. But if they miss a shuttle bus, they may miss a competition," Wang said.



Q & A >> PETER MIKLUSICAK, TENNIS PLAYER, SLOVAKIA

Is this your first time to China and your first Universiade?

Yes, first time to China, but it's my second Universiade.

What's your impression of Shenzhen?

It's such a hot place. I know it's that time of year ... other than that, it's a beautiful city. I am impressed to see so many trees and mountains here.

How do you feel about life in the Universiade Village so far?

It's amazing. Everything is new and neat. I really enjoy the food here. The dining hall has so much to offer — all the international flavors.

Which kind of food do you enjoy the most?

Chinese food, I have to say. There aren't many Chinese restaurants in

Slovakia. So here, I'm glad to have the chance to eat some real Chinese food and use chopsticks. It's fun.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Basically, I like staying in my room when I'm not training or competing. I go to other venues to see my teammates play sometimes. I'd also like to travel around the city more; maybe after the competition.