



Our Dream: Special Olympics
World Games 2023 in Berlin

**Special
Olympics**
Germany



Special Olympics
World Summer Games
Berlin 2023



Federal Ministry
of the Interior, Building
and Community

be  **Berlin**
Sportmetropole



***Special
Olympics***
Germany

What are the Special Olympics?

Special Olympics Deutschland (SOD) is the German organization representing the **world's largest sports movement for people with intellectual and multiple disabilities officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**. The Special Olympics were founded back in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of President John F. Kennedy, and today support over 5 million athletes in 170 different countries.

The Special Olympics' mission is to foster the stronger inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in all walks of life. Today, SOD creates self-determined options for more than 40,000 people with intellectual disabilities – ranging from disability-specific to inclusive offerings.

What are the Special Olympics World Summer Games?

Every two years, people of different nations, cultures, political and religious persuasions meet for the Special Olympics World Games, the **world's largest inclusive sports event** – it takes place alternately as summer or as winter games. The Special Olympics World Summer Games stands out for nine days of exciting and inspiring competitions featuring thousands of athletes. The focus is on sports events where people with intellectual disabilities compete against one another and on contests that also include people without disabilities. The wide-ranging offerings, which in addition to sports also cover the fields of culture, education, science and healthcare, ensure that the Summer Games have an impact far beyond just the field of sport.

PREFACE



We, the Athlete Leader for Special Olympics Deutschland, want nothing more strongly than a German World Games!

We want to welcome people from all over the world here in Berlin. We want to show the world together with athletes from 170 different countries that we are actively helping shape the Special Olympics and represent our own interests.

We want to show with the spirit of sport how invaluable inclusion can be for everyone, and how much fun and joy can be had together. Special Olympics Unified Sports® shows this everyday anew. But too few people experience this for themselves and know it! We wish that with the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 in Germany people with

intellectual disabilities will receive greater recognition. We wish to become a natural part of society. We wish to train quite naturally along with everyone else in sports clubs. We Special Olympics athletes want to live unified lives, in sport and in society.

We want to celebrate a major fascinating festival of inclusion with the World Games in Berlin. For this reason, we invite athletes from all over the world to come to Berlin: Come join with us!

Come to Germany! Let's change the world with the 2023 World Summer Games!


Mark Solomeyer

National Athlete Leader and SOD Vice President





I believe that the Games is an excellent means of fostering inclusion, comradeship, fairness and respect. For the idea that “the most important thing is taking part” is very much to the fore here. It fosters greater solidarity, encourages people to care for one another and engenders the happiness one feels when one has been successful in

helping others and not just oneself. I would therefore be delighted if we could celebrate the Special Olympics World Games with you in Germany in 2023.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Federal President of the
Federal Republic of Germany



Like no other event, the Special Olympics World Games stand for interaction between people with and without a disability and bring people from all over the world together in a unique way. The Federal Republic of Germany would like to harness the power of these outstanding Games to promote the implementation of

the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Germany and around the world.

Horst Seehofer

Federal Minister of the Interior,
Building and Community



The organization has made a vital contribution to creating an inclusive society in which diversity is welcomed and all of us – with or without disabilities – can live a free, self-determined life on an equal footing with everyone else. Berlin shares this goal with the Special Olympics. Inclusion is an issue that affects all of us, and we want to anchor this awareness

more deeply in our society. That is why the Special Olympics World Summer Games are not just a one-time-only event for us. We want to spend the time leading up to the Games, as well as afterwards, doing our utmost to realize an inclusive society.

Michael Müller

Governing Mayor of Berlin



In the form of the 2023 Special Olympics World Summer Games we are making it clear to the whole world: We are showing what real inclusion in society can be and aspire to change the prevailing mind-set. Our hope is that by hosting the 2023 World Games we will succeed in persuading local authorities in Germany to make sure sports clubs are more

strongly open to people with intellectual disabilities than has been the case to date while at the same time promoting sports in the organizations supporting people with intellectual disabilities.

Christiane Krajewski

President of Special Olympics
Deutschland

VISION

At a time where the world is moving further apart and there are excluding, stigmatizing and discriminating trends again, we wish with the largest humanitarian sports event to make a clear statement to the world for an open society that respects everyone.

It is time to re-unite the world! Like no other event, the Special Olympics World Games offer an occasion to question and clarify values and self-image. The World Games overcome barriers and no other city can symbolize that better than Berlin. Berlin has proved that it has the power to change the world. Across the globe, Berlin is a prime example of diversity and freedom, a place people yearn to be.

Our vision is, with the World Games, to tear down walls internationally. The walls between nations,

the walls and barriers in people's heads. Berlin and Germany will be the trailblazer for an inclusive society. We will show that our athletes are the engine driving an open and vibrant society. All our ideas hinge on them. We will show that a "Unified Generation" is no utopia. We will use Germany's aura to send out a key signal to the world. 60 years after John F. Kennedy famously said "Ich bin ein Berliner," in 2023 we will invite the entire world to also be Berliners and take part in the Unified Revolution and, starting from the heart of Europe, take the idea of inclusion out into the world. We will present SOI as a global player driving the realization of the UN Convention, among other things through an international government program.

Our vision is, with the World Games, to foster a change in mindset throughout Germany and thus a



change in how people with intellectual disabilities are perceived. We will show that our athletes can shape their own destinies in all fields of life. They will assume an active role in all aspects of the event. The World Games 2023 in Berlin will be the most inclusive Games of all time both on and off the sports fields. **It will be the athletes' Games.** They will be at the epicenter of things, as confident athletes, as volunteers, as staff ers, as reporters, as fundraisers, as leaders who speak for themselves. Who bring their joy of life, their commitment, their enthusiasm, their viewpoints to bear to enrich society. This change in mindset in the population as a whole for and with people with intellectual disabilities is very important and will lay the foundations for the enduring implementation of the UN Convention in Germany. We will pay particular attention to involving children and young people with and without disabilities.

The World Games will be the driver for establishing the very first “Unified Generation” in Germany. The Games are essential to link the topic of inclusion with great experiences and boost a willingness to implement the UN Convention. This applies specifically to the education sector, where the creation of unified schools needs to be promoted. **The World Games will be the occasion to launch a nationwide schools campaign.** We will position ourselves here as the enduring partner in educational training for inclusive (school) sport.

The Games are crucial for us to further strengthen and professionalize the subprograms. They are the decisive step to reach more people with intellectual disabilities and enable greater options and opportunities locally. To date, we are only reaching 10% of the people with intellectual



disabilities in Germany. **We want to evolve far more strongly into a grassroots movement in which athletes and the partners are actors in their own organization and can act as equals in sports and society alike.** To achieve the sustainable goals it is therefore key that we strengthen the local and state level activities and secure funding for work in the subprograms. To this end **we are developing national programs and campaign days that will remain in place after the World Games.** We aspire through the Volunteer program to involve people in our organization in the long term and motivate them to champion the co-existence of people with and without disabilities in everyday life.

We want to use the World Games to strongly stimulate advancing SOI and further underscore the value of the event itself. The Games will take

place in the heart of the city against the impressive backdrop of Berlin. The competitions downtown and the opportunities for participation will allow us to reach people with and without disabilities in a special way. We will exploit the fact that Berlin is one of the most creative places worldwide.

We will rely on that spirit to depart down new digitization and marketing paths. We will develop a design for all so that our athletes have access to information – a basic prerequisite for them to represent their own interests. **We will set new barrierfree standards.** We believe education is the key to inclusion being lived. We will therefore launch an international education program in advance and it will also run during the event.

FACTS & FIGURES

9

Days of
competitions

20.000

Volunteers

3-4

Days Host
Town Programm

3.000

Coaches

25

Sports

170

Nations

7.000

Health Screenings

500.000

Spectators

3.500

Officials

12.000

Family Members

7.000

Athletes/ Unified Partner

SPORTS

Badminton



Basketball



Beach Volleyball



Bocce



Bowling



Football



Open Water Swimming



**Gymnastics
(Artistic)**



Golf



SPORTS

Handball



Judo



Kayaking



Powerlifting



Athletics



Cycling



Equestrian



Roller Skating



Gymnastics (Rhythmic)



Swimming



Sailing



Softball



Tennis



Table Tennis



Triathlon



Volleyball







PROGRAM

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Just as is the case at the Olympic Games, the Special Olympics festive Opening and Closing Ceremonies form fixed parts of the program of events accompanying the Special Olympics World Summer Games. All the nations taking part join together in opening and closing the Games – in keeping with the official Special Olympics ceremonial proceedings.

Host Town Program

Within the Host Town Program, all the nations will be welcomed for four days in cities and communities throughout Germany. Athletes and their coaches together get to know the host country better, use the time to acclimatize and prepare for the Games, and interact closely with their hosts. The motto and goal: 170 nations, 170 inclusive communities.



Healthy Athletes®

Healthy Athletes® is the Special Olympics' international, year-round healthcare promotion and prevention program. It includes advisory services, screenings, and diverse education opportunities. Athletes can avail themselves of the following services free of charge during the World Games, too: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Healthy Hearing (audiology), Health Promotion (living healthily), Opening Eyes (better sight), Special Smiles (dentistry), and Strong Minds (emotional well-being).

Family Reception

As part of the World Games, the Special Olympics host an international program and a platform for interested families, where experiences and information can be shared, mutual support offered, and new friendships forged.





Gemeinsam stark!

Special Olympics Kiel 2018

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
50
1968 - 2018

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
50
1968 - 2018

Special
Olympics
Deutschland
Kiel. 14.-18. Mai 2018
Nationale Sporthalle für Menschen
mit geistiger Behinderung
Sailing City

WURTH s.Oliver
AKTION WURTH ABB
ABB WURTH
s.Oliver
Kiel
Sailing City

ABB WURTH s.Oliver
AKTION WURTH ABB
ABB WURTH
s.Oliver
Kiel
Sailing City



Cultural program

A diverse, colorful and international art and cultural program rounds out the sports events at the World Games and brings people with and without disabilities together in the fields of art, photography, music, theater, film, and dance.

School and Fan Projects

The nationwide school and fan projects reach out to children and young people of all age groups, encouraging them to take part in the World Games. As fans, they are called on to welcome the athletes from all the different countries, to launch projects in their schools, act as patrons or sponsors, to cheer the athletes on, and themselves become active in all the different formats open to everyone, such as the Non-Competition Events.

Global Youth Summit, Science Congress and Education Services

A wide-ranging education and science program will be hosted to coincide with the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023. It will feature, among other things, a diverse, international education program, international congresses, and a Global Youth Summit. There, young people will have the opportunity to discuss the needs of people with intellectual disabilities, report on experiences in their home countries, and express their wishes and expectations as regards an inclusive society.

VENUES

Messe Berlin



Basketball
Bocce
Judo
Equestrian
Roller Skating
Table Tennis
Volleyball
Healthy Athletes®
Science Congress

Olympiapark



Football (11-a-side)
Softball
Opening Ceremony

Strasse des 17. Juni



Beach Volleyball
Cycling (Sprint)
Closing Ceremony

Wannsee



Golf
Cycling
Sailing
Triathlon

Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark



Athletics
(Option 1)

MommSENstadion



Futsal
Athletics
(Option 2)

Velodrome



Badminton

Bowlingcenter Schillerpark



Bowling

Poststadion



Football (7-a-side)

Max-Schmeling-Halle



Gymnastics (Artistic)
Powerlifting

Horst-Korber-Sportzentrum



Gymnastics (Rhythmic)

Sportforum



Handball

Kupfergraben Flussbad



Open Water
Swimming
Kayaking

SSE (Swimming and Diving Hall)



Swimming

Steffi-Graf-Stadion



Tennis

be  **Berlin**

Sportmetropole



IMPRINT

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Premium Partner



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