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Press Release

Overwhelming response as Athletes and organizers are highly satisfied with Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023

Berlin, June 22 – On Thursday, the athletes and the organizing committee kicked off the second half of Special Olympics World Games in Berlin with a thoroughly positive interim summary. The overwhelming response strengthens and confirms the plans of the organizing committee. “It’s all going quite well,” said Carsten Kranz, who, as chief operating officer, is responsible for running the World Games. “Our concept is working.” With 135 playing fields digitally connected in real time, more venues are reported on than in the Olympic Games.

As hoped, the 50,000 visitors to the opening ceremony have continued to support the event throughout the week. According to Kranz, around 70 to 80,000 tickets will have been sold. “People are buying more tickets than we expected,” he said. Some events can also be attended free of charge. The organizing committee is also satisfied in the choice of competition venues. The Olympic Park and trade fair grounds are filled with life. “We are pleased that the implementation of the games and the cooperation with the operators is working so well,” said Kranz.

“We’re quite excited about what’s to come,” said Mehtap Özgül, Special Olympics ambassador. For her, the first half of the games was quite exciting. In numerous conversations with athletes, she also talked about what could be improved. “It’s just wonderful,” said Reynaldo Montoya, former cyclist and part of the inclusive team in the organizing committee. “Look at this magic. It really warms your heart.” said Albert Tuemann, Chief Marketing Officer of the OC. “The public perception is overwhelming for us and especially for the athletes, who were involved in everything.”

Participation is one of the fundamental principles at the Special Olympics. “This has turned out great,” said Joannah Faust, who is in charge of athlete involvement at the SOD. “Our athlete spokespersons are well integrated and can thus have a say in the committees.” As part of a national

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strategy plan, athletes are also prepared for voluntary work. For example, in the LIVE (Local Inclusive United Engagement) project in which athletes are trained as participation advisors and can advise clubs or municipalities on the topic of participation.

The 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Berlin have been met with an overwhelming response overall. More than 1,800 media representatives have been accredited. Online, the major event has reached more than one billion users internationally.

More facts about World Games:

- 30,000 downloads of the official app
- 6.5 tons of food consumed
- 10,000 Healthy Athletes screenings to date
- 71 translators in plain language
- 220 scientists supporting the games and collecting data on sustainability issues

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