



## Press Release

### “Sports brings us all together”

## Dirk Nowitzki at the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023

(Berlin, Germany) Superstar Dirk Nowitzki has been looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to the opening of the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin. On Saturday, the 44 year old German and naturalized American athlete seized the opportunity to visit and convey his best wishes to the German Special Olympics 3 by 3 basketball team while they were training at the Berlin Messe for the upcoming competition: “The Special Olympics is not just about winning or losing, but much more about coming together with other athletes and seizing the opportunity to enjoy participating in, and learning from, sport, just as I had done when I was younger”, as Dirk said.

Born in Würzburg, and celebrating his 45th birthday this coming Monday, he is visiting the Special Olympics World Games this weekend. “For me, the Special Olympics stands for inclusion and diversity”, as he stated during a press conference. In a jovial mood and always with a smile on his face, he then responded to questions from Louis Kleemeyer, a Special Olympics Germany tennis player and member of the organizing committee.

“This is my first time at the Special Olympics World Games. My hope is that I can give the athletes an extra push and that little bit of extra motivation”, continued the star. “We can all learn so much from sport, whether it be discipline, cooperation, or team spirit. There are so many lessons that you can learn from sport, no matter where you come from, who you are, or what kind of background you have. Sport brings us all together. That’s what the Special Olympics is about. I hope that all of us here can enjoy a great celebration together.”.

Dirk Nowitzki has been appointed as a “Friend of the Games”, one of several personalities committed to publicizing the Special Olympic World Games in Berlin. As a guest of honor, the former

#### FÖRDERER



#### PREMIUM PARTNER



#### PARTNER





#ZusammenUnschlagbar  
#UnbeatableTogether

NBA champion attended the opening ceremony on Saturday in the Olympic Stadium along with around 50,000 spectators.

With his involvement, he is hoping that the first edition of the Special Olympics in Germany will send a clear message above and beyond the games: "Currently, only 10% of German sports clubs are addressing the needs of those with physical and intellectual impairments. That is a real pity. We hope that with an event such as this one being held in Germany, awareness will be raised further, and that more options for playing sport will become available for these people."

#### Media Contact

Nadine Baethke

[Media@berlin2023.org](mailto:Media@berlin2023.org)

WWW.BERLIN2023.ORG

#### FÖRDERER



#### PREMIUM PARTNER



#### PARTNER

