



# Special Olympics Luxembourg

## National Director's welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter!

A quick word from me and the rest of the Special Olympics Luxembourg committee to wish you, our all-important supporters a happy, healthy and above-all sporty new year.

With this newsletter we hope to start a new communication phase for Special Olympics Luxembourg.



We would like to supplement our popular [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages with more targeted information on how your help and sponsorship allows our movement to grow. In these difficult pandemic times, thanks to your help and that of our volunteers, we have managed to continue to give our athletes the opportunity to thrive through sporting challenges.

The challenges to be faced in 2022 are, as yet, unknown. The World Winter Games, due to take place in January 2022, have been postponed to 2023. However, we are delighted to announce that our ski camp in Austria is set to go ahead in February. Such small signs of progress, make us feel confident that we can surmount any other barriers thanks to the remarkable goodwill of those involved in Special Olympics Luxembourg.

I hope you enjoy this first newsletter.

Yours sportingly

Lieven Decroos

## Your donations

Thanks to the generous donations [from our corporate sponsors](#), Special Olympics Luxembourg has been able to resume most of its activities, in accordance with government guidelines.

2021 also saw donations from numerous private citizens, for which we are very grateful.





# Special Olympics Luxembourg

Your donations have meant that we have been able to not only continue our existing sports but also pilot new disciplines. This should ensure that Special Olympics opens up to more potential athletes.

## Hybrid pentathlon

### Sports news

After many months of limited training and no competitions, in July Special Olympics launched a new sporting opportunity - the hybrid pentathlon. A video was made showing the various sports involved: 30m running/walking, 200m running/walking, standing long jump, ball/mini javelin throw, high jump.



Following the Corona rules, each athlete could choose to take part in each sport when or where it suited them best - at home, during training, or in the Coque. A total of 55 athletes took part, 22 of them in the Coque. Everyone was highly motivated. As a reward, each participant received by post a diploma and medal with their personal results. The first-ever hybrid pentathlon was judged a complete success.

## Stick shooting

Back in September 2021, trainers and athletes took the opportunity to compete in Peuerbach, Austria in the European championships in stick shooting. Unlike traditional curling, which takes place on ice, stick shooting can take place on any flat surface, therefore can be played also in the summer.



The games were a complete success and our athletes returned home with a host of medals and special memories. Take a look at [this video](#) to have an impression of this sport.





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## Athletics

Following the cancellation of the national indoor games in 2020, happily they could take place again in 2021 thanks to the covid check regime. Around 60 athletes from Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg took part in the games.



The events included a range of running/walking distances between 25m and 1500m as well as ball throwing, mini javelin, the shot put, standing long jump and long jump. Following "divisioning" in the morning, where athletes are timed or scored so they can be placed in groups of similar ability, the finals took place in the afternoon. The popular relays (4x60 meters and 4x200 meters) completed the games. Emotional moments were recorded during the medal ceremony in the presence of Martine and Pol Mellina, both winners of numerous Luxembourg athletics awards.

## Tennis

Yves loves playing tennis with Special Olympics. Together with Luc and Jeff they train at Esch Tennis Club with fantastic trainers. During the summer in good weather, they play at the Galgebierg in the middle of the countryside. Otherwise, they are in the hall at Lallange.



Yves loves meeting his friends and hitting the ball about. He's not so keen on picking up all the balls though, preferring to balance as many balls on his racket as possible. It's all part of the fun for this terrific tennis team trio.

## Basketball

The basketballers have been busy. In September they organised a 24-hour dribble marathon from Wiltz to Hesperange, together with Special Olympics runners, footballers and local basketball teams.





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December saw the team receiving drinking flasks from the "Kleeschen", as well as a brand-new reversible sports kit. On top of this, they produced a calendar, and managed to train and play basketball throughout the autumn season. The team also said "goodbye and thanks" to assistant coach Ronny Schanen, who retired, and welcomed new assistant coach Steve Kaboth to join Marco Rock leading the athletes. They ended the year with a festive Christmas meal to keep up these energy levels.

## Fun time

### Niklosparty

The commune of Hosingen hosted a Niklosparty for our athletes, trainers and family. This lively event was appreciated by all.



## Useful links

### What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics aims to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

- [Special Olympics global organisation](#)
- [Special Olympics Europe Eurasia](#)
- [Special Olympics Luxembourg](#)

### Donate

Make a tax-deductible donation to Special Olympics Luxembourg through:

ING : LU21 0141 1400 7100 0000  
 BIL: LU13 0020 1121 9340 0000  
 BGL: LU44 0030 1653 8433 0000  
 BCEE: LU44 0019 1000 2503 7000

[Paypal](#)

### Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering for Special Olympics? If so, contact us on [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) or complete the form [here](#).

### Become a SO athlete

Are you interested in becoming a Special Olympics athlete? If you think you have what it takes, contact us on [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) or complete the form [here](#).





# Special Olympics Luxembourg

## Become a unified partner

Unified partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) train and compete as a teammate alongside Special Olympics athletes on a Unified Sports Team (either on a school or community team). Unified partners can be of any age. If you are a member of a sports club that would like to link up with us to take part in inclusive sports, please contact us on [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) or complete the form [here](#).

## Become a corporate donor

Join our corporate sponsors who are making a difference. Please contact [info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu) to find out how you can help.

## Support

Become an honorary member by sending 25€ (or more) to one of the above accounts, mentioning your name.

## Contact us

[info@specialolympics.lu](mailto:info@specialolympics.lu)

