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Special Olympics  
**EUROPEAN**  
**BASKETBALL WEEK**  
29th Nov - 7th Dec | 2014





## Partnership with FIBA Europe

"We are pleased to continue our long term partnership with Special Olympics, which is part of our mission to promote Basketball for Everyone. Special Olympics uses sport as a catalyst to transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and to promote respect, acceptance and inclusion. I warmly encourage all Basketball National Federations to provide support and assistance to Special Olympics in their efforts to make this year's European Basketball Week the biggest and most inclusive. I particularly welcome this year's focus on playing Unified and 3x3 Basketball."

**Kamil Novak**  
Secretary General  
FIBA Europe



## Partnership with Euroleague Basketball

"We will be supporting Special Olympics during our Competition Rounds 7 and 8 of the Turkish Airlines Euroleague this season and it is an honour for us to dedicate our games to support Special Olympics. Special Olympics is an organization that uses the power of sport to fight against exclusion, like we do with our One Team programme. We are proud of our collaboration which year after year works for the benefit of society and sport at all levels and for those most in need."

**Jordi Bertomeu**  
President & CEO  
Euroleague Basketball



## Partnership with ONE TEAM

"Through our One Team programme, we work towards the integration of people living under exclusion in our society for several reasons: those affected by substance abuse, gender inequality, economically disadvantaged, community cohesion or people with physical or intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics is a pioneer entity in promoting Unified Sports - #PlayUnified. We are really proud to promote this message through our games and players as we understand that this can be a significant way towards full inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities."

**Isabel Gultresa**  
ONE TEAM Director  
& Head of CSR  
Euroleague Basketball



## Play Unified

"I am pleased to say that once again the European basketball community is throwing its full weight behind the Special Olympics European Basketball Week. Basketball Week is possible through the generosity and vision of Euroleague Basketball and its ONE TEAM Programme and FIBA Europe. We are grateful for their dedication in supporting the work of Special



Olympics and their deep passion for our athletes. 2014 marks the 11th year of European Basketball Week and this year our focus is on playing Unified and the introduction of Special Olympics 3 x 3 half-court basketball. By bringing together players with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team we believe more inclusive communities will be created leading to a more respectful world for everyone."

**Mary Davis**  
Regional President  
Special Olympics Europe Eurasia





# CHANGING THE WORLD IS A CONTACT SPORT.

People with intellectual disabilities are excluded and discriminated against every day. It's time we team up and take to the field to change this. Together, as one, intolerance and injustice don't stand a chance.

**Game On! Join the team at [playunified.org](http://playunified.org)**





Kyle Hines (One Team Ambassador) with SO Italia athletes at Euroleague's Final Four 2014, Milan

© Euroleague Basketball ONE TEAM

## Our aim is to reach 60,000 players by end 2014

Today in Europe there are 57,920 registered Special Olympics basketball athletes and 12,053 are Unified players supported by 2,520 coaches.

2014 Basketball Week will focus on introducing half-court 3x3 competition and Unified basketball. Unified basketball encourages players with (athletes) and without intellectual disabilities (partners) to play on the one team and forge new friendships to help build a more inclusive society. The success of 2014 Basketball Week depends on the European community encouraging maximum participation by athletes, Unified partners, coaches, fans and families.

### 2014 Basketball Week Facts:

18,500 Athletes

33 Countries

20 National Tournaments

200 Local basketball events including Unified and 3x3 Basketball

24 Euroleague ONE TEAM matches dedicated to Special Olympics

60 Professional Clubs

25 National Basketball Federations

20 Coaching Seminars

**Celebrate** International Day of People with Disabilities Dec 3rd








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Through the support of FIBA Europe the 2014 European Basketball Week will focus on introducing half-court 3x3 competition. FIBA sees 3x3 as a major vehicle for promoting the game of basketball throughout the world. 3x3 EuroTour competitions are free to everyone and not limited to a certain nationality, age, gender or skill level. Integration of wheelchair basketball and Special Olympics competitions are a focal point.



Let's work together to make the 2014 European Basketball Week a real success. By focusing on playing Unified and 3x3 half-court basketball we want to inspire and mobilize a new generation to connect with people with intellectual disabilities and create more inclusive communities, leading to a more respectful world for everyone.

-  [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)
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