



Memorandum of Understanding

Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia and European Aquatics

Concluded between

European Aquatics, having its office at [9 rue de la Morache, 1220 Nyon, Switzerland], hereinafter referred to as "EA" is the governing body for aquatic sports in Europe – namely artistic swimming, diving, high diving, swimming, open water swimming, water polo and masters – and is affiliated to World Aquatics.

Vision: European Aquatics is recognized as a leading, inclusive and diverse Continental Association that develops aquatics in innovative and sustainable ways, promotes Aquatic Social Responsibilities and supports athletes and Member Federations to make Aquatics the most competitive and engaging sport.

and

Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE), a regional office of Special Olympics, Inc. ("SOI") for 58 countries in Europe and Central Asia, a non-profit organization, having its registered office at 42 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2 and registered under the laws of Ireland (REGISTER NUMBER: 905990)].

Special Olympics is a global sports movement to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics Mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in various Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, offering them continuous opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community."

This memorandum of understanding ("Memorandum of Understanding" or "MoU") is a statement of intention between the Parties concerning the issues mentioned here. It is not intended to create any contractual relationship or be legally binding on the Parties.

Recognizing the importance of developing high-quality sports for athletes with intellectual disabilities and deciding to cooperate in this matter, the two Parties have reached the following understanding:

Principles of Cooperation

European Aquatics promotes inclusivity and accessibility by creating programmes which ensuring there are the coaches, officials, and infrastructure in place to ensure an increasing number of people feel welcomed, encouraged and able to participate in our sports.

European Aquatics strongly believes aquatics to be both a sport and a recreational activity that all members of society should have access to, regardless of their age, gender, disability, or ethnicity.

European Aquatics promotes and develop aquatic sports in Europe at all levels, maximizing participation, governance standards, enjoyment, and community involvement. EA's work is founded on principles of democracy, loyalty, and equality, recognizing the importance of its member National Associations, athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, and the broader workforce.

Special Olympics strives to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people. Through the power of sports, people with intellectual disabilities discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. Our athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment—on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.

To achieve these objectives, Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia and European Aquatics will:

- cooperate in developing content and materials that can be delivered through both networks;
- identify potential areas for practical cooperation;
- provide advice and support on related issues;
- maintain regular contact and share information related to upcoming programs and initiatives;
- share information and resources with both international networks where appropriate.

In the spirit of cooperation, both parties have agreed on a comprehensive Swimming Development Plan for the years 2025–2028, that encompasses various crucial aspects such as DEVELOPMENT, EVENTS, PARTNERSHIPS, and COMMUNICATION. It aims to foster growth, encourage collaboration, and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of both organizations in these areas.

Additional fields of cooperation and amendments

Either Party may propose specific arrangements and additional fields of cooperation of mutual benefit. The Parties are expected to consult upon request regarding any matter related to this Memorandum of Understanding. Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding may be made by mutual consent in writing between the Parties.

Funding

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to exclude any direct costs by the Parties.

Validity

This MOU commences on the date it is signed by both Parties and will continue until terminated by either Party in writing, with at least three months' notice given by the terminating Party.

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Special Olympics oath

European Aquatics


Mr. Antonio Jose Silva

President

Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia


Mr. David Evangelista

President and Managing Director

