



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR TO BECOME A GLOBAL TEAM AMBASSADOR FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOOTBALL

September 11, 2009: Tottenham Hotspur is delighted to announce the formation of a new relationship with Special Olympics, which will see the Club become a Global Team Football Ambassador for the organization.

Within this role the Club will use the power of football to promote respect, acceptance and inclusion of young people and adults with learning disabilities as part of the Special Olympics Global Football initiative.

To help raise further awareness of the relationship, Tottenham Hotspur will dedicate their forthcoming game at White Hart Lane against Manchester United on 12 September to announce the partnership.

Tottenham Hotspur will take on an ambassadorial role for the Special Olympics movement alongside Serie A Champions Inter Milan.

Daniel Levy, Tottenham Hotspur Chairman said, "Through the work of the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, the Club has established a great relationship with Special Olympics.

"I am delighted that the Club has become a Global Team Ambassador for the Special Olympics Football initiative. We will use the Club's worldwide appeal to promote inclusion in sport and raise the profile of Special Olympics."

Within the Global Team Ambassador role Tottenham Hotspur will seek to involve supporters, coaches and partners as part of the promotion of inclusion for people with learning disability in sport.

Ossie Ardiles, Spurs legend and Co-Chair of Special Olympics Global Football expressed his delight at the formation of the relationship, "For me it is a very special occasion. Tottenham Hotspur and Special Olympics are both very close to my heart and so to see Spurs take on a bigger role globally with Special Olympics is fantastic.

"There are millions of people with learning disabilities and they are often a forgotten group. The partnership will help create opportunities for Special Olympics athletes and transform the way communities and groups think and act in regard to disability."

The impact of the relationship was demonstrated at Spurs Lodge today, where the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation hosted a coaching clinic for individuals from Norwood and Haringey Mencap, which was attended by Harry Redknapp, Les Ferdinand and Tom Huddlestone.

The relationship will also see the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation continue to support Special Olympics within their current role as the official Grassroots Football Provider - which has seen the Foundation deliver coaching clinics for Special Olympics athletes in the UK, China and throughout Europe.

There are 300,000 registered Special Olympics football players worldwide and the aim is to bring that number closer to 500,000 by involving Tottenham Hotspur.

Special Olympics Global Football aims to create a network of 10 teams by the end of 2010, which will bring the football community together to promote inclusion and raise the profile of Special Olympics.

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About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a global organisation that uses sports as a catalyst to change society's perceptions and treatment of people with learning disabilities. Today, Special Olympics is more than an event: It is a lifetime experience encompassing year-round sports competition, health, education and inclusion opportunities, serving 3 million athletes in 180 countries.

Special Olympics and Paralympics are two separate organisations recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Special Olympics provides sporting opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities of all ability levels. Paralympics provides opportunities for elite-level athletes with disabilities.

Special Olympics Great Britain now supports more than 8,000 athletes. There are over 135 local groups in England, Scotland and Wales run by a dedicated army of over 2600 volunteers. There are 1.2 million people with learning disabilities in Great Britain.

Visit www.specialolympics-eu.org for more information on Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia.

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