

European Football for



Development Network

**EFDN**



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**BREDA**  
MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2024



**TOGETHER WE ARE #Morethanfootball**

[WWW.EFDN.ORG](http://WWW.EFDN.ORG)



EFDN

## EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (EFDN)

EFDN is a network of professional football clubs, leagues and associations who are committed to community and social responsibility and have the passion to cooperate and engage on a European level. With an ever growing membership of over 175 clubs, leagues and FAs from 32 European countries, the ultimate objective of EFDN is to inspire and support all European professional football clubs, leagues and FAs to become socially responsible and community-engaged organisations that use the social power of football to positively change the lives of people in European society.

The network facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practice amongst its members, creates opportunities for participation in European CSR programmes and events, gives visibility to members' own programmes and initiatives, provides consultancy services, along with many other services and activities. Programmes and initiatives are designed to tackle critical topics such as promoting health and well-being of people of all ages, tackling discrimination, education and employability and the social inclusion of hard to reach groups.



## ABOUT THE SPECIAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The EFDN Special Champions League is a new project of EFDN that will provide a safe, inclusive, and active environment where young people over 15 years old with an intellectual disability can come together and play football at a level they are all comfortable with. EFDN will organise 2 to 4 European Football Festivals per year that are hosted by different EFDN members throughout the year. The tournaments are non-competitive and a way to promote greater social inclusion and acceptance of disability football within European Football clubs and the wider European population. Through football, we want to get more young people with intellectual disabilities physically and socially active in their communities and increase integration and inclusion within society. The EFDN Special Champions League has been shaped in line with the Special Olympics philosophy, and it will provide opportunities for participants to improve their physical health, increase their confidence, meet new people, learn about others, and establish social bonds. The Special Champions League is co-funded by Erasmus+.

## OBJECTIVES

- Provide safe, inclusive, and active environments where young people with intellectual disabilities can come together and play football at a level they are all comfortable with.
- Provide opportunities for young people with intellectual disabilities to socialise with young people who do not have intellectual disabilities.
- Foster and enhance cross-sectional partnerships for the establishment of a Special Champions League methodology across the football industry.



### VENUE

The third Special Champions League tournament will take place at the football field of BSV Boeimeer in the north of Breda.







**BSV Boeimeer, Heksendans 4, 4823 JX Breda, The Netherlands**





# EVENT PROGRAMME

## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of May

- 09.00  - Divisioning matches
- 10.30  - Announcement of competition groups
- 11.00  - Special Champions League tournament Kickoff
- 12.00  - Lunch
- 13.30  - Special Champions League tournament (continuation)
- 16.00  - Closing ceremony



## SCHEDULE DIVISIONING GAMES

Field 1				Field 2			
Time	Match	Teams		Match	Teams		
09:00	1	KAS Eupen	Bayer 04 Leverkusen	2	NAC Breda	Werder Bremen	
09:30	3	Fundacion Levante	NEC Nijmegen	4	Fundacion Alcoraz	Manchester City	
10:00	5	Benfica	Bayer 04 Leverkusen	6	Werder Bremen	Juventus	

## COMPETITION GAMES

Field 1				Field 2			
Time	Match	Teams		Match	Teams		
11:00	7	Team 2	Team 5	8	Team 6	Team 7	
11:20	10	Team 3	Team 4	11	Team 8	Team 9	
11:40	13	Team 1	Team 5	14	Team 6	Team 10	
12:00	Lunch						
13:30	16	Team 2	Team 5	17	Team 7	Team 10	
13:50	19	Team 1	Team 3	20	Team 6	Team 8	
14:10	22	Team 2	Team 4	23	Team 7	Team 9	
14:30	25	Team 3	Team 5	26	Team 8	Team 10	
14:50	28	Team 1	Team 4	29	Team 6	Team 4	
15:10	31	Team 2	Team 3	32	Team 7	Team 8	
15:30	34	Team 4	Team 5	35	Team 9	Team 10	
16:00	Closing ceremony						

SCAN THIS QR  
CODE TO SEE THE  
SCHEDULE!



# NAC BREDA



Since mid-2015, the TSC G-Toppers have been a significant enrichment at the football club TSC, “because there should be a place for all target groups at our beautiful TSC,” said Hermann-Otto. Now, 8 of these players have the opportunity to represent NAC Breda in the Special Champions League.

The TSC G-Toppers have once again shown their best side this season, and the numbers don't lie. With 7 victories and an undefeated status, they proudly sit at the top. A goal difference of +57 demonstrates that the scoring ability of our TSC G-Toppers is very high.



# CITY IN THE COMMUNITY



We have decided to bring players from some of our various projects. Some attend our Pan disability sessions weekly, while some attend specific disability programmes. In addition, some players play in a local Pan disability league. However, we have brought a group that deserve such an amazing opportunity and those that will gain valuable life skills from such an experience. We just want to thank Special Olympics for the invite and we are just happy to be here!



# WERDER BREMEN



Werder Bremen's inclusive football team, the Werder Youngstars, is looking forward to taking part in the Special Champions League in Breda. This unique event provides a platform for people with different abilities to come together to share their passion for football.

The fact, that the Youngstars will meet teams from different countries, makes the trip to Breda even more exciting. For us, it's not about sporting success: the event stands for exchange and getting to know new cultures and people. For the Werder Bremen players, this means gaining valuable experience and making new friends.

The two previous match days in Lisbon and Leverkusen have already provided many unforgettable moments for the players and we are sure that the tournament in Breda will also provide us with many great experiences.



# FUNDAÇÃO BENFICA



The Adapted Football team of the Benfica Foundation that will participate in the 3rd round of the Special Champions League in Breda, will be composed of 8 elements, 1 goalkeeper plus seven field players. Of the eight players, 3 have already participated in the first round, the rest will be the first participation in the SCL. For 3 of our players it will be their first international experience. We will be full of desire to have fun and accumulate experiences on and off the field.



# FUNDACIÓN ALCORAZ



Our team has been created since 2017 in which we compete with other LaLiga teams. This season we started in September 2023 and we have participated in national sporting events and have travelled to Tarragona, Cadiz, Zaragoza and Tenerife, missing Breda and Getafe.

We have also carried out extra-sporting activities both on our own and with the first team players, who have supported us in all our tournaments.



# FUNDACIÓN LEVANTE



Levante UD EDI (Football School for people with Intellectual Disabilities) was created in 2012 with the aim of promoting a sport that was accessible to all people, regardless of their characteristics and needs. Currently, there are a total of 170 male and female players, between 5 and 57 years old and with a wide range of disabilities.

The team we are taking to Leverkusen to play the Special Champions League is different from the one in Lisbon. There are 8 players that we wanted to reward for their commitment and good behaviour during this season. We train two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, for 1 hour and a half. Not all the players are from the same group during the season, but they will train together during the months of April and May. These 8 players will have their first international experience with the tournament.



# N.E.C. NIJMEGEN MAATSCHAPPELIJK



## Development from a N.E.C. project to a self-steering partnership:

In 2014 the Corporate Social Responsibility team of N.E.C. Nijmegen (N.E.C. Maatschappelijk) started a collaboration with 4 clubs/teams in the Nijmegen region in order to setup a regional Special Football League, organize and support Special Football activities and deliver organizational support for regional clubs to start a Special Football team themselves. Currently over 200 players are collaborating in this partnership, as one with 10 clubs/18 teams in 3 leagues at different levels. Leading, coordinating and facilitating the partnership was handed over to the participating clubs in 2018. N.E.C. Maatschappelijk still supports organizationally and financially.

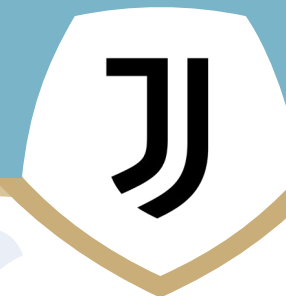
## Live the life of a pro:

Since 2021 N.E.C. participates in the Dutch Special Premier League (De Bijzondere Eredivisie). During one season football players with a disability are offered the opportunity to live the life of a professional: Training and playing matches in the stadiums of the Dutch Premier League against other Premier League teams, being trained by N.E.C. trainers, participate in workshops for healthy lifestyle, travel with the official N.E.C. bus and of course, wearing the N.E.C. shirt with pride.

It was obvious the N.E.C. team to be recruited from the Regional Special Football Partnership year by year. Now for the second year a N.E.C. team is participating in the Dutch Special Premier League. Due to the partnership between N.E.C. and EFDN this team also participates in EFDN events.



# JUVENTUS FOR SPECIAL



Juventus for Special is a Juventus sport and social inclusion project that has started in 2017 to favour inclusion of people with cognitive-relational disabilities through sport.

On sport level, it is making over 54 players with cognitive disabilities and/or mental illness. Team members are divided based upon their degree of disability and technical level in four categories supervised by both coaches and educators to respect sports objectives and the social dimension.

Since his debut, Juventus for Special teams has been participating in the Italian dedicated tournament organized by the F.I.G.C.

Since the 2021/22 season we are also participating in Special Olympics regional tournaments. Beyond football, Juventus for Special manage as well Juventus educational ludic project Gioca con Me, in this case, to facilitate access to football for children with cognitive, relational and mental disabilities.





# KAS EUPEN



In the educational field, KAS Eupen has been running a partnership with the Eupen Centre for Special Needs Education ZFP for several years. As part of the exchange with the ZFP, students from the ZFP get the opportunity to do an internship at KAS Eupen and thus gain experience in the areas of cooking, caretaking and greenkeeping. Through the membership of ZFP and our Qatari partner Generation Amazing, interesting exchanges take place regularly with the students of ZFP. Others join weekly football seasons. The participating team consists of a part of the group that has been training together once a week since this year. However, this is the first tournament. The team is very happy to meet the other participants. #GrowUpTogether #Morethanfootball



# BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN



## “The Simple Football Team”

Since the last special Champions League tournament in Leverkusen, a lot has happened and changed in our Simply Football team. We've had the pleasure of welcoming new participants to our team who share an interest in football. Additionally, the core of the team has been held together and developed further. The team spirit and unity continue to grow stronger. These qualities are reinforced in every training session and through our weekly gatherings on the football field. Furthermore, the team has had the opportunity to participate in various tournaments, friendly matches, and other group activities, allowing us to grow together as a team athletically as well. The progress of the players is evident in every training session and game, which is rewarding for the coaching staff to observe. A particularly special and defining event for some players was the Inclusion Day between Bayer Leverkusen and Werder Bremen, where an inclusion team tournament was initially held. Afterwards, the players had the opportunity to watch the Bundesliga match between Bayer Leverkusen and Werder Bremen live in the stadium together. What made it especially memorable was that Bayer Leverkusen became the German champions on that day, and we were able to celebrate it together afterward.





# RECAP FROM LEVERKUSEN



NAC BREDA



CITY IN THE COMMUNITY



WERDER BREMEN



FUNDAÇÃO BENFICA



FUNDACIÓN ALCORAZ



FUNDACIÓN LEVANTE



N.E.C. NIJMEGEN  
MAATSCHAPPELIJK



JUVENTUS  
FOR SPECIAL



KAS EUPEN



BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN



#SPECIALCHAMPIONSLEAGUE #SCL #MORETHANFOOTBALL



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Special Champions League

# EFDN PARTNERS

## MAIN PARTNERS



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## PROGRAMME PARTNERS



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We Make It Happen.

## EVENT PARTNERS

Die Sparkasse  
Bremen



Special  
Olympics



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