

Special Olympics Europe Eurasia (EE) Badminton Seminar Summary (April 2015)

In April 2015 Special Olympics EE held a Badminton Seminar Denmark with the following two main objectives:

1. Re-iterate the mission, philosophy and rules of Special Olympics as well as discussing divisioning, unified badminton and event management.
2. Introduce the accord between Special Olympics EE and the Badminton Europe Confederation (BEC) and the benefits the Shuttle Time resource can provide, including sessions with World Badminton Federation (WBF) tutor, Joann Hughes.

Mariusz Damentko (Sports Director for Special Olympics EE), delivered Power Point presentations on:

- Special Olympics Mission Highlights, Philosophy, History of Athlete Participation, Worldwide Structure of the Movement, Sample Accredited Special Olympics Program Structure, Special Olympics Volunteers, Definition of Intellectual Disability, Eligibility for Special Olympics, and the Uniqueness of Special Olympics.
- Unified Badminton, History of Unified Sports, Evolution, Experiences, Key Facts, Model Choices, Participation Census, Outlook, Suggestions for recruitment of players, and Unified Badminton Rules (2014)
http://media.specialolympics.org/soi/files/resources/Sports-Rules-Competitions/SportsRules/Badminton_Rules-FINAL-March2014.pdf
- Videos from the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens and the 2014 European Summer Games in Antwerp.

Luc Taelman (2014 European Summer Games Badminton Event Organiser) lead discussions on **Divisioning**, including the **Special Olympics Great Britain athlete rating form**, the **Kaiser System** (used for the Games in Antwerp) and the new **Swiss Ladder System** which will be used in Tennis at the 2015 World Summer Games in LA.

Joann Hughes, Badminton World Federation (BWF) Tutor, introduced the delegates to **Shuttle Time**. This is a BWF online and book resource for teachers and coaches. Once registered on the BWF website (<http://www.bwfbadminton.org/>) users have access, free of charge, to 22 lesson plans of 1 hour duration and 94 video clips with active demonstrations of practice routines and technical skills. The Lesson Plans are broken down into 10 Starter Lessons, 2 Swing and Throw Lessons, 6 Throw and Hit Lessons and, finally 4 Learn to Win Lessons. Full details can be accessed online or printed off as a session plan.

As part of a practical session with 10 Danish Special Olympics Athletes Joann set the delegates a challenge of planning 4 different 1 hour sessions for the athletes and themselves to work through. With the aid of the Shuttle Time resource this proved relatively easy to do and the feedback from the athletes was very good. They enjoyed it, found that it was developing their skills, and wanted us to come back and do more.

The overall feeling is therefore that Shuttle Time is and will be, a valuable and positive resource for Special Olympics coaches to use in the future.

For any more information about the seminar, please contact David Gillespie (dgillespie58@hotmail.com).